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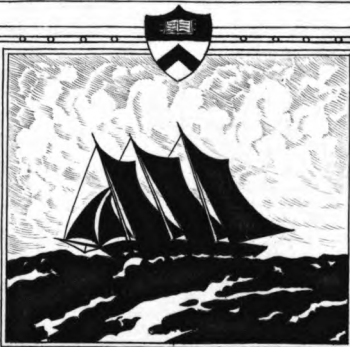
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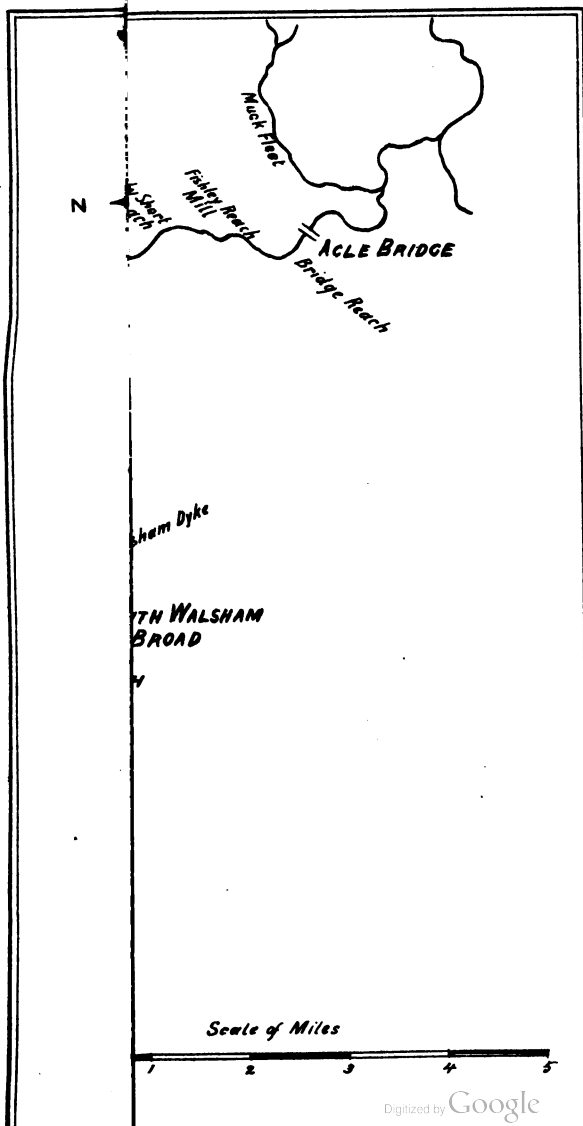
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The Illustrated  
**GUIDE TO FISHING**  
In Norfolk Waters







The Illustrated  
GUIDE TO FISHING  
*IN NORFOLK WATERS.*

With full Information as to Fishing Stations.  
Bait, Distances, &c., &c.

BY  
A. J. RUDD.

LONDON:  
JARROLD & SONS, 10 & 11, WARWICK LANE, E.C.  
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1896.



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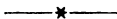


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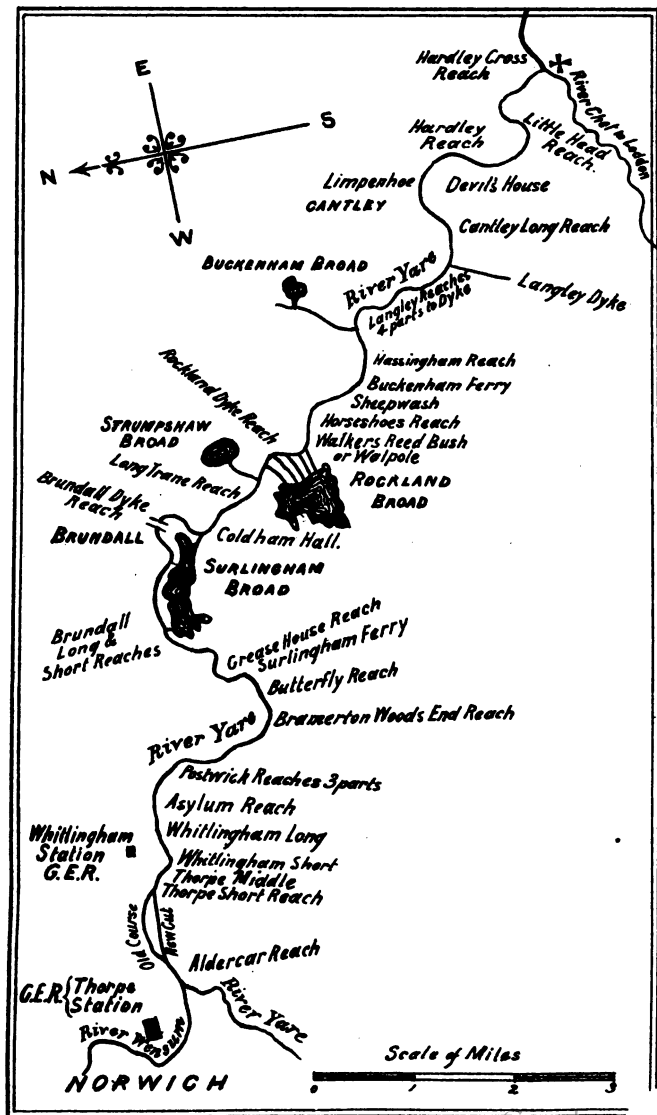
THE increasing popularity of the Waterways of Norfolk, as a holiday resort for Tourists, among whom are numerous anglers, has resulted in the publication of several Guides to the District. These have been for the most part dedicated to the Yachting and Boating interest, and very little has been done in the way of assisting piscators, who are strange to our waters, in the pursuit of their favourite sport, by directing them how and where they may most successfully angle for the fish with which these waters abound. This abundance of fish is chiefly due to the efforts of the Yare and Bure Preservation Society, who have, by efficiently watching the rivers, entirely stamped out poaching by nets which formerly played havoc with the fish. Now there are so many fish in the Rivers and Broad's of Norfolk, that the county has become noted as being the best coarse fishing district in England. Every year hundreds of Anglers visit us, from every part of the country, and it is to help these persons, and, possibly, to

give a hint or two to local votaries of the gentle craft that this little book has been written. Should the hints prove of any value, and the efforts of the Angler be rewarded by anything like good sport, I hope that he will not be unmindful of the work of the Society I have mentioned, and that more contributions to the boxes in the river-side hostelries, and an increased membership on the Society's books, may be the result.

I have to thank Mr. Radcliffe Pope, the Secretary of the Wensum Preservation Society, for kindly furnishing particulars of his Association.

A. J. RUDD.

54, *London Street,*  
*Norwich.*







# JARROLD'S' GUIDE TO FISHING.

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## RIVERS OF NORFOLK.

### The Yare.

**T**HE YARE, the principal of the rivers of Norfolk, is, from its source at Shipdham, to its confluence with the Wensum at Trowse Hythe, about twenty-two miles in length, and flows through Cranworth, Wood Rising, Southburgh, Reymerstone, Marlingford, Barford, Colney, Earlham, and Lakenham. In its course it is joined by several tributary becks,

such as the Thuxton Stream, the Dyke Beck at Barford, the Bays River just below this point, and the Taes or Tass River, which, coming from the direction of Stoke Holy Cross, swells its volume to some extent, uniting with the main stream between Lakenham and Trowse Mills. On this upper part of the river some good fishing may be obtained, especially for roach and pike. In the vicinity of most of the mills on the stream, good roach may be taken with gentles or meal worms, while in some places dace fishing with the fly affords splendid sport in the summer months.

The WENSUM has its sources at East Rudham and Whissonsett, and flows through Raynham, Lakenham, Ryburgh, North Elmham, Bylaugh, Lyng, Attlebridge, Taverham, Drayton, Costessey, Hellesdon, and Norwich, to the Yare at Trowse Hythe, its length being 35 miles. Its tributaries are small streams, the first of which flows from Shipdham through Yaxham, Mattis-hall, Tuddenham, Honingham, and Costessey, to the main stream at Hellesdon; another from Fulmodeston, runs to the river at Ryburgh; a third flows through Foulsham and Twyford to Guist; two streams, one rising at Foxley, and the other at Themelthorpe, unite at Whitwell,

and join the Wensum at Whitwell and a stream rising at Brandiston, and flowing through Aldersford to Attlebridge.

The united river, called the YARE, from Trowse Hythe downwards, continues its course mainly in an Easterly direction, through Thorpe and Whitlingham, Postwick and Bramerton, Brundall and Surlingham, Strumpshaw and Rockland, Buckenham, Hassingham and Langley, Cantley and Limpenhoe, Hardley and Reedham to the west end of Breydon Water, a large tidal lake, about  $4\frac{3}{4}$  miles long and a mile wide.

The Yare has two Broads of fair size, viz., Surlingham and Rockland, and three smaller, viz., Strumpshaw, Buckenham, and Hassingham, connected with it by long dykes.

The BURE (locally known as the North River) rises at Hindolvestone, and flows through Thurning, Corpusty, Saxthorpe, Itteringham, Blickling, Ingworth, Aylsham, Oxnead, Lamas, Buxton, Coltishall, Belaugh and Wroxham, Hoveton and Horning (receiving just below this point the waters of the Ant and Thurne), Acle, Stokesby, and Runham, to Breydon Water, which it enters at its north-east corner. There is a small broad at Belaugh, but from Wroxham to Acle may be

justly termed the "land of the broads," for between these villages the river supplies Wroxham (120 acres), Hoveton Great (120) and Small (80) Broads, the latter sometimes called the Black Horse Broad, Salhouse Great and Small Broads, Burnt Fen, Woodbastwick or Decoy Broad, the Little Broad or Cockshoot, Ranworth large (150 acres) and small (latter sometimes called Malthouse Broad), and South Walsham Broad.

The ANT rises at Antingham, and has been made navigable to North Walsham. It flows through Dilham, Stalham, Barton, and Irstead, and drains Stalham and Barton Broads (200 acres).

The THURNE rises at Martham, and flows through Potter Heigham, Bastwick, and Ludham, draining Somerton, Martham, and Hickling (500 acres) Broads, Horsey Mere, Whiteslea, Heigham Sounds, and Womack (called in the Norfolk Vernacular "Wanack") Broad.

Just below Acle is the sluice of the Muck Fleet, a narrow dyke, which connects Ormesby, Rollesby, Filby, Waterworks, and Old Burgh Broads (total, 700 acres) with the Bure.

The Bure has a few other tributaries besides the Ant and the Thurne, but they are tiny

streams, such as the Scarrow Beck, which joins the main river behind Ingworth Mill, King Beck, and Mermaid Beck.

The WAVENEY rises at Lopham, and flows through Diss, Scole, Hoxne, Sileham, Brockdish, Harleston, Mendham, Homersfield, Bungay, Ellingham, Gillingham, Beccles, Aldeby, Burgh St. Peter, Somerleyton, and St. Olaves, to the south-west end of Breydon, which it joins at Burgh Flats. Numerous tributaries feed it on its course of 48 miles, but they are very small becks, viz., from Fersfield, Winfarthing, Tivetshall, Pulham, Alburgh, Bedingham, Norham, Fressingfield, and Barsham.

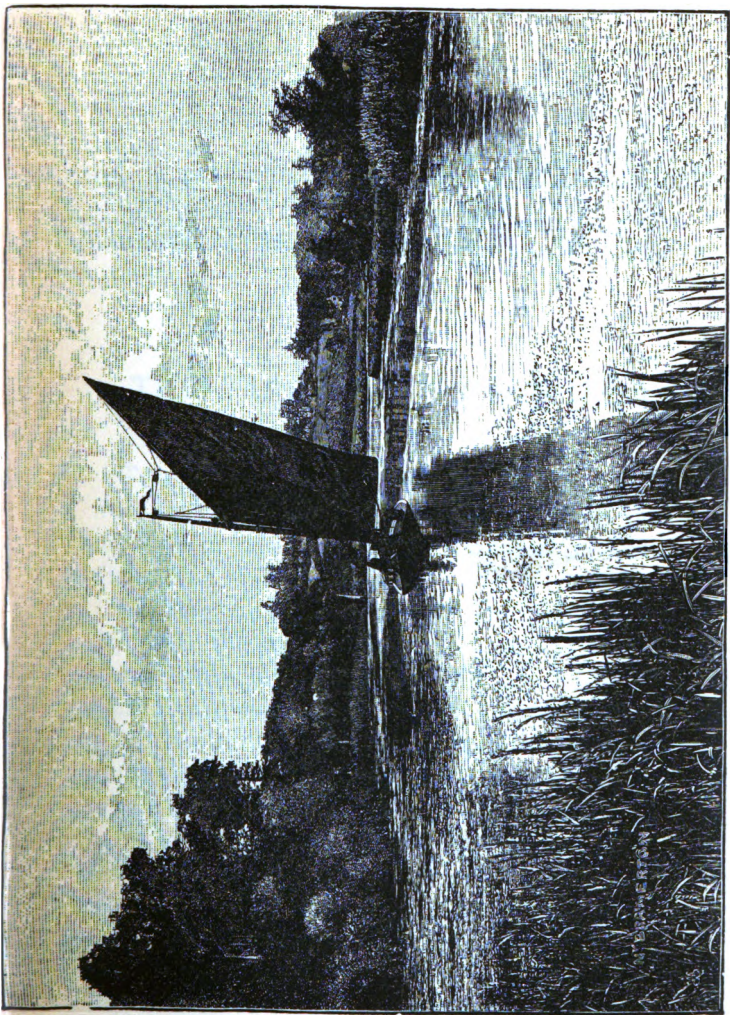
The Waveney has only one broad (Oulton) connected with it. This is free, and is a very fine sheet of water, but it is ordinarily of more interest to the yachtsman and boat-sailor than to the angler. Occasionally quantities of small pike and some fair-sized perch are taken, the slightly brackish water apparently suiting the latter.

Near St. Olaves is a fine sheet of water, Fritton Lake (or Decoy), containing nearly 500 acres of water. The lake is the loveliest in the district, and is surrounded by well-wooded banks of fine trees, which in some cases rise directly out of the water. The pleasure gardens and grounds of the

hotel (Fritton Old Hall) too are well worth a visit, but the fishing on the lake is poor, the fish being extremely thin and awfully slimy.

There are in Norfolk several other rivers, notably, the Ouse and Nar, but these are quite out of route of the ordinary tourist, and consequently do not come within the scope of this "Guide."





ON THE YARE AT BRAMERTON.





## THE YARE AND ITS FISHINGS.

THIS river claims our first attention, not only from its greater volume, but from the fact that the fish in it are of better size and condition than those of its sister rivers.

Starting from Norwich, the first place which demands the angler's notice is Trowse Hythe, situate only just outside the old city boundary. Here in the early spring, from February to April, and in the autumn from September to November, immense quantities of bream congregate, and are taken by local fishermen in large numbers, the baits used being principally lob and brandling worms, placed on the bottom of the river. The depth of water here, along by the hoarding bounding Messrs. J. and J. Colman's timber yard, is from 7 ft. 6 ins. to 8 ft. 6 ins., while just at the

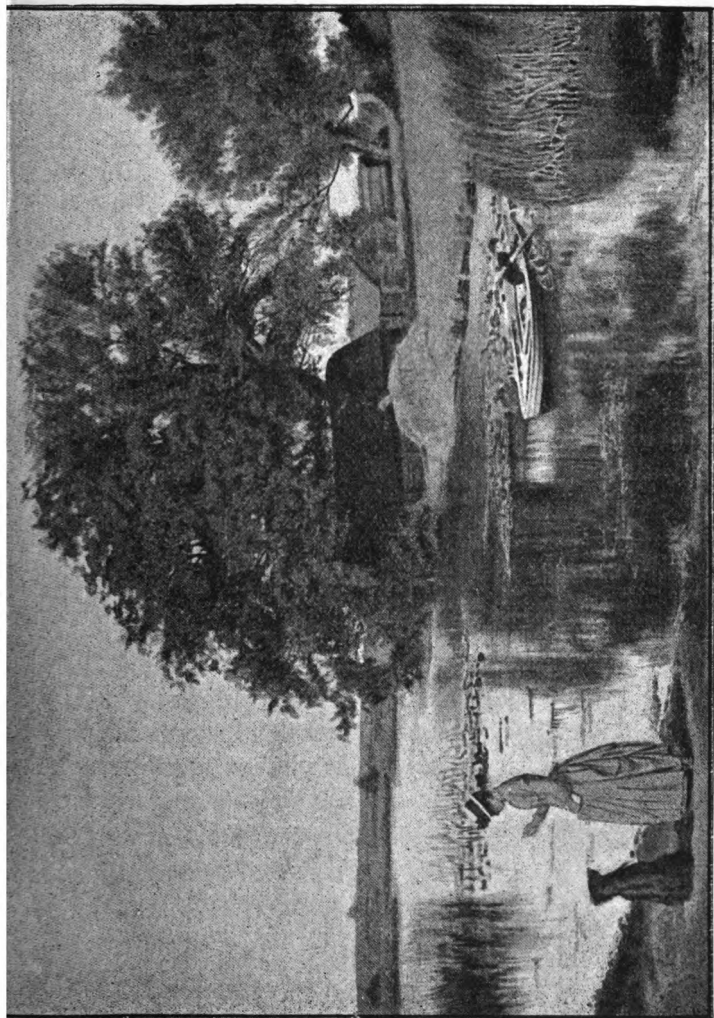
confluence of the Yare and Wensum, and also under the Alder Car, is water 9 ft. in depth.

The next fishing ground of any merit is that known as Thorpe Broad, and this, like most widenings of the river, is shallow. The deepest part is on the right bank in the bend, near a stile; here there is 9 ft. of water, but on the opposite side there is but  $5\frac{1}{2}$  ft.

Passing on to Whitlingham Short Reach, under a carr of trees, we find a good spot with  $6\frac{1}{2}$  ft. of water.

The next two or three reaches are not worth the angler's attention, and we continue along to Postwick Reach, where just round the bend, under some willow bushes opposite the Grove, is a good place with 10 ft. of water. Lower down the same reach, near Postwick Hall, is good water on both sides of the river, with a depth of 9 ft., the best spots being under some bushes on the left, and along by some reeds on the right bank. The deepest spot of all in these upper reaches, is a little further along, where just below a fallen tree, which is still growing, the stream is 10 ft. deep.

From here to Surlingham Brickyard there is not much to be done, but just off the reeds at the entrance to the dyke leading to the Brickground,



SALHOUSE LITTLE BROAD, MAYOR'S FARM.



is a good gravelly shallow, 6 ft. deep ; and in the same reach, off some osiers, just above a small mill, is another place with a similar depth. Immediately below the mill the water deepens suddenly to about 10 ft., and continues of this depth for some way down, past a small nut bush. On the opposite side, under a row of small willow trees, the water is 7 ft. deep, and the same bank is good all along till another small patch of dwarf willows is passed.

In the Horseshoe Reach, on the right bank, off a small reed-bed in the bend of the river, is a very good spot, with 9 ft. of water in the swim.

We now arrive at Surlingham Ferry, which anglers will find a good starting point for fishing the reaches, already mentioned, as far up as the Brickyard, or those down stream for the next mile.

The Ferry is a cosy little inn, but, unfortunately for the proprietor and for anglers, it is too far from a railway station, and can only be reached by driving. The boats, seven in number, are very good, and the landlord has also two nice rowing boats for pleasure parties.

On the left bank, below the house, as far as a black shed, excellent roach fishing may be had in water 7 ft. deep. In Surlingham Short Reach,

opposite Dr. Beverley's lovely grounds, on the left bank, we find 10 ft. of water, and in the next reach (Brundall Long Reach) about 6 ft. About a hundred yards above the Icehouse entrance to Surlingham Broad, is an excellent spot for roach, in water of  $6\frac{1}{2}$  ft. Opposite the dyke itself is 7 ft. deep, and in front of the Icehouse about  $6\frac{1}{2}$  ft. These three places are excellent for roach in flood time. On the left bank, near a boathouse in the bend of the river, is an excellent swim of 9 ft. to 10 ft. in depth.

From Brundall to Cantley may be considered the happy hunting-ground *par excellence* of the roach fisher. Here we find wide, open stretches of steadily flowing river of good depth, and, in some places, with a hard bottom, whereon one can get good level swims fairly clear of weeds, and can depend on sport in any of the swims, that I shall name hereafter, which may be under the lee, and, consequently, fishable with some degree of comfort.

Just outside the mouth of Brundall Lower Dyke there is a good spot for roach, in winter time especially, and also when there is a strong tide running. The swim is about 8 ft. deep, with fair bottom. All the reach down to Coldham Hall (Coldham Hall Reach) is

shallow, compared with what we shall find a little lower down stream round the next point. In the middle of the reach is a good swim, 8 ft. 6 ins. deep, along in front of a reed-bed on the left bank. Opposite (just below the entrance to Surlingham Broad) is a shallow, with a hard bottom only about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  ft. to 5 ft. from the surface. This is sometimes capital ground for perch.

Passing on our right the noted Coldham Hall, we come to a clump of trees on the same side as the Inn. Here is a good spot for roach in summer. The water is about 10 ft. deep, and has a fairly good flooring, immediately opposite the largest tree of the clump. On the same side, a little lower down, we find two wide dykes, known as Barnes' Upper and Lower Dykes (these must not be mistaken for Barnes' Dyke at Surlingham Brickground). Off the lower dyke is a good spot, though the water is but 7 ft. in depth.

We are now in the noted train reach, and on the best roach ground on the Yare. On the right-hand side is a little bunch of low bushes overhanging the river's brink. Just off from the first of the bushes is a very good swim, with a hard bottom at a depth of 11 ft., the deepest water in the reach. Here, on a warm summer

evening, roach may be taken in good numbers, and of fair average size.

On the left bank, a little further down, is Strumpshaw Dyke; just off here the water is about 9 ft. deep, and all along by this bank is a very good swim, gradually decreasing in depth till we reach a spot opposite Rockland Main Dyke, where we find only about 7 ft. of water. This can only be fished with an easterly wind. On the opposite side, just below the dyke, is very good water, 10 feet deep in the swim, and with good ground for roach fishing. Below the lower dyke, leading to Rockland Broad, is another good spot, with 10 ft. of water and fair holding.

On the right bank we now pass Walpole's reed bush, with a very good stretch of water in front of it, the depth of which is quite 11 ft.

Passing down stream we come to the Horse-shoe Reach, so called from the cottages on the left having formerly been a public-house of that name. At the top end of this reach, on the left-hand side of the river, immediately opposite the stream mill, is a very good fishing place where we shall find 14 ft. of water in the swim.

We are now within sight of the old willow tree, which formerly would sometimes stand up and sometimes lie down, according to the

direction of the wind, but which now, shorn of its fine upper branches, and supported on the land side by props, has given up its vagaries in this respect, and become a fixture, at least for a time. Directly in front of this tree runs a stream 11 ft. deep, with fair bottom.

Crossing the river, we approach two rows of rails, which run from the river-wall down to the brink. This is the celebrated "sheepwash," in front of which is a fine spot for roach and bream. Very long mooring poles are required here, for we do not reach the bottom till their lower ends are 14 ft. down from the surface.

Immediately below this, on the same side, stands Buckenham Ferry Inn, where anglers can obtain boats and a certain amount of accommodation. The ferry is very picturesquely situated amongst a group of trees, and is doubtless sketched and photographed by most amateur artists who visit our rivers and broads. It is, too, and this is more to the angler than luxurious apartments, placed in the best part of the river for roach fishing, and the rodster staying here will find, either up stream or down, particularly in the swims I am now mentioning, some of the best fishing in the district.

Passing along, we see a large windmill, known

as Buckenham Mill. Immediately opposite this, on the right bank, is good water, 10 ft. deep, and about a hundred yards lower down stream is another good place, with a very hard bottom at a depth of about  $9\frac{1}{2}$  ft.

On the left side of the river is a lock, which prevents the tides in the river affecting Buckenham Broad, which is strictly preserved for the sake of the wild-fowl. Just along on this bank (known as Hassingham Hubbs) is a splendid swim, long enough for several boats to fish in a row, and with water of a depth varying from 10 ft. to 12 ft. On the other side, too, along by some bushes, just above Langley Steam Mill, is a capital length of water, with room for three or four boats, and quite 13 ft. in depth.

On the left bank, at the top of the next reach (Langley Short Reach), is good fishing, with about 12 ft. of water; while on the right bank, by Langley Carr (carr=copse), 11 ft. of water will be found. All along this reach, on either bank, good fishing may be obtained, the water running from 10 ft. to 12 ft. in depth.

Just below Langley Dyke, on our right, is a good roach spot, although the water is not so deep as at other places in the reach, being only 9 ft. or  $9\frac{1}{2}$  ft. deep in the swim.

We are now nearing Cantley, and find the river of a more uniform depth than it was higher up stream. About the best spot is at the upper end of Cantley Reach, on the right side, in water 11 ft. deep, while just off a red-brick cottage, on the left, is, at times, a good place for bream.

Cantley Red House now forms the most prominent feature of the landscape, which is here very flat. Excellent accommodation can be obtained here. The house, which has lately been rebuilt, contains several bedrooms and private sitting-rooms, and there is a good supply of excellent boats.

Just below the house there is a deep place in the river-bed, known as Crowe's Hole. The water is about 14 ft. deep, and, although uncertain, the fishing is very often excellent.

From this point downwards the water is too deep and the current too strong for anything but ledger fishing, except at the turn of the tide at high and low water, when roach may be taken on float tackle ; but, for the most part, the fishing at Reedham is for bream. Here immense quantities are taken, chiefly in the early morning by anglers who go down from Norwich by the train which carries the Yarmouth mail, and

also by residents in the locality. From Reedham to Yarmouth the river is too much affected by the tide to yield much sport to the angler.





## THE BURE.

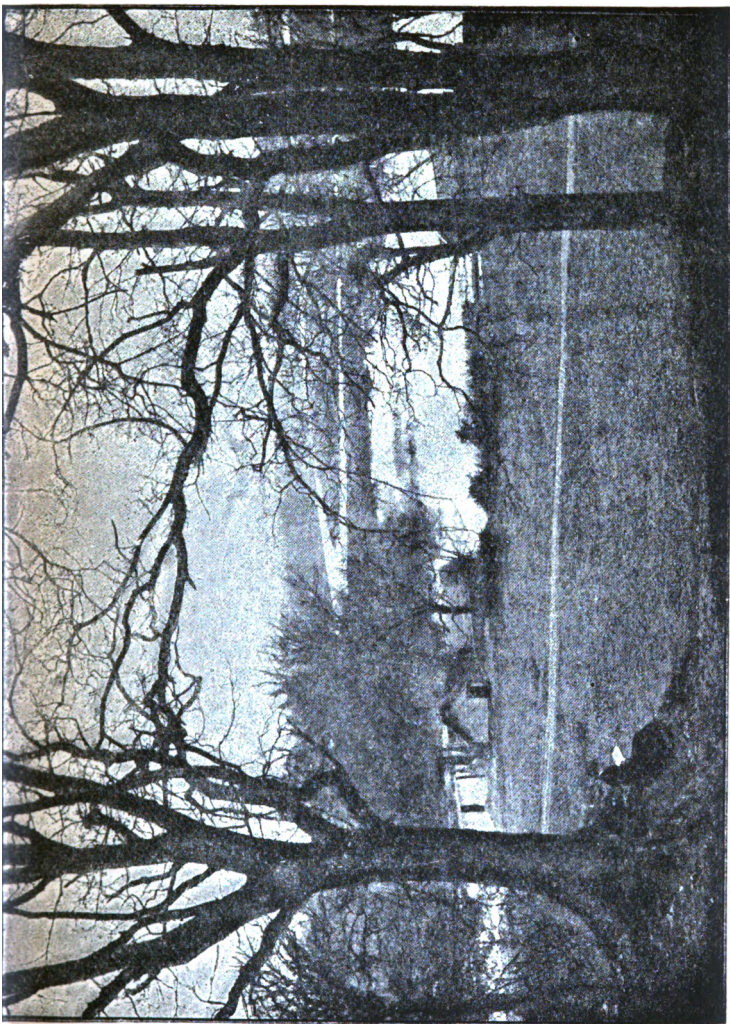
THE Bure from Buxton Mills is an excellent river for roach. Above Aylsham the water is preserved, and below, for some distance, the fishing is difficult to get at, as the banks are private property, and there are no boats to be had near enough to be available for a day's angling; but just below Buxton Mills any respectable angler would be freely given permission to fish from the bank, and the sport to be obtained is splendid. Fine roach, up to 2 lbs., with occasionally a heavier fish, are to be caught, especially in the winter months, when the weeds are down. The next fishing station is Coltishall, where roach and bream may be taken in fair numbers and of good, average size, and in the autumn and winter,

numbers of pike are caught with spinning bait in the river above the Mills.

Just above the Railway Bridge at Wroxham is a bend in the river, and on the left bank, quite in the hollow, is an excellent place for roach, particularly in the summer, when the fish are driven up by the traffic below the bridges. From the lower of the bridges, down stream for about a mile and a-half, there is not much fishing to be done, though occasionally, when the water is clear in the autumn and winter, a spoon or other pike bait may be profitably trailed behind the boat.

Passing Wroxham Broad, the first spot that can be recommended as likely to produce any sport, is in the hollow of the next bend of the river, near the mouth of a dyke, where water of 5 ft. 6 ins. will be found, and where roach and bream may generally be taken. All along on the right bank, both above and below the entrance to the broad, good sport may be obtained with the perch, particularly at the time of the roach-spawning, when the perch are busy eating up the spawn as soon as the roach have deposited it upon the reeds and sedges that line the river bank.

Passing Salhouse Broad, which can only be



CATHOUSE LITTLE ROAD AND RIVER BRIDGE



fished by permission, we find on our right a round sheet of water, situate at the foot of the lawn of the Hall Farm, Woodbastwick. Exactly opposite the mouth of the short dyke leading to this water, is an excellent spot for the bottom fisher, with water 7 ft. deep, while on the right hand, near the Decoy Staithe, is a similar swim of 8 ft.

Turning the corner we enter Diddle's Reach, at the further end of which is a tall windmill. About a hundred yards down is good fishing, on a flat 5 ft. in depth. On the left bank, a little below Woodbastwick Dyke, is excellent water, with a depth of 7 ft. 6 ins. in the swim.

Hoveton Long Reach is noted for its fishing; the left bank is the best of the two, as the water is deeper on this than the other side. At the upper end of this reach the water is 8 feet deep, and gradually deepens towards the middle of the reach, where we find 9 ft. in the swim. It then shallows again, till, at the lower corner, the water is only 7 ft. deep; but, notwithstanding this, it is an excellent place for roach. The short stretch of river before we reach Horning, generally contains some good roach, the fishing for which is best on the right-hand side, in water 7 ft. deep.

Off the point, too, is good but shallow water

(6 ft. 6 ins.), which continues to preserve this character for some distance, until, having passed the village, it gradually deepens at the lower end of the reach to about 9 ft.

Opposite Woodbastwick Broad Dyke (Horn-ing Reach) the fishing is good, in a swim of 6 ft. 6 ins. On the same bank (left) in front of the Turf Staithe boathouse, a splendid stretch of gravel, about 30 yards long, forms the bed at a depth of  $7\frac{1}{2}$  ft., and there is a similar depth opposite two reed-beds, immediately above an eel set on the same side of the river. On the same bank, in the bend before we reach Horning Mill, along the front of some reeds, is good fishing (water  $7\frac{1}{2}$  ft.), while just above the mill itself is a hole 9 ft. deep. On the left bank, in front of the reed fence bounding the garden of the Ferry-house, is a very good spot, with 8 ft. of water in the swim.

There is a wonderfully deep hole, immediately opposite Horning Ferry Hotel, the water being quite 11 ft. deep in the middle of the river, caused by the stream being confined to a somewhat narrowed channel by the jutting out of the road ferry and the opposite landing-stage. This hole generally contains a lot of fish, and good sport may often be obtained in it.

Passing on down-stream, the first good spot we come to is on the left bank, below a dyke in a bend of the river, where we find a depth of 8 ft. Opposite the dyke leading to Cockshoot Broad is an excellent fishing place, the water 8 ft. deep, and at the lower end of the same reach, on the left bank, is another very good place, with water of 7 ft.

The Church Reach is the next, where good fishing may be obtained. The left side of the river is shallow, but all along on the right (Ranworth side) is about  $7\frac{1}{2}$  ft. deep, and is excellent water for roach and bream.

In the Staithe Reach are two good swims, both on the left bank ; one, just off the Old Staithe, and the other at the lower end of the reach. Both swims are 7 ft. deep, and afford excellent sport.

On the right bank, a little further on, is Ranworth Dam, along by which the water is 8 ft. deep, and beyond this there is a fine long swim, with 9 ft. of water in it, extending to the end of the reach. On the opposite shore (left) the water is shallow, the depth being only from 5 ft. to 6 ft.

We now enter "Beggar's Oak" Reach, so-called from a tramp having hung himself on an oak

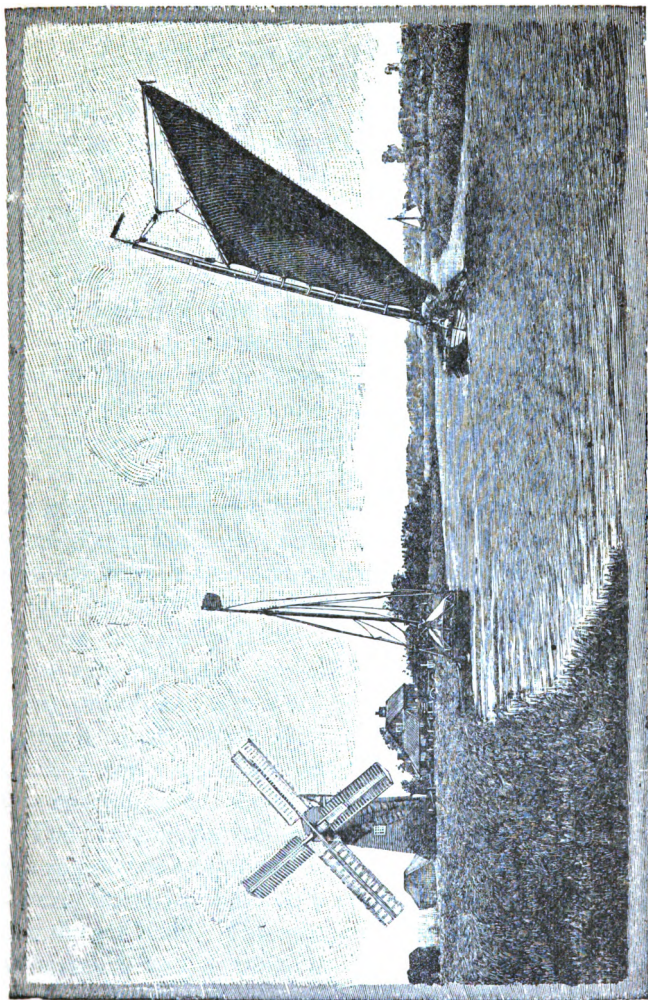
tree in this reach. The oak, like the beggar, is now defunct. This reach has only one good spot in it, and this is quite at the bottom end, on the right bank, in water 8 ft. deep.

A large house is now visible on the left side of the river. This is Horning Hall, and on the same side is excellent fishing in very good water.

Passing down-stream, the water is of much the same depth for a long distance, and the angler may be sure of sport in any place that may be under the lee. Exactly opposite St. Benet's Abbey is grand fishing in water 9 ft. deep, and the same may be said of all the water round a short reach at the end of the "Ward." This "Ward" takes us into South Walsham Mill Reach, where the fishing is excellent, particularly ledgering for large bream and roach.

From here, down the river, past the mouth of the Thurne—at the confluence of which, with the Bure, a pike may always be taken—to Acle Bridge, good sport may be had on any suitable day, there being a large quantity of roach and bream in the stream.

The fishing between these points should be either heavy float fishing, like that recommended for the Yare, or ledgering, as the current is very strong and the water deep.



THE RIVER THURNE.



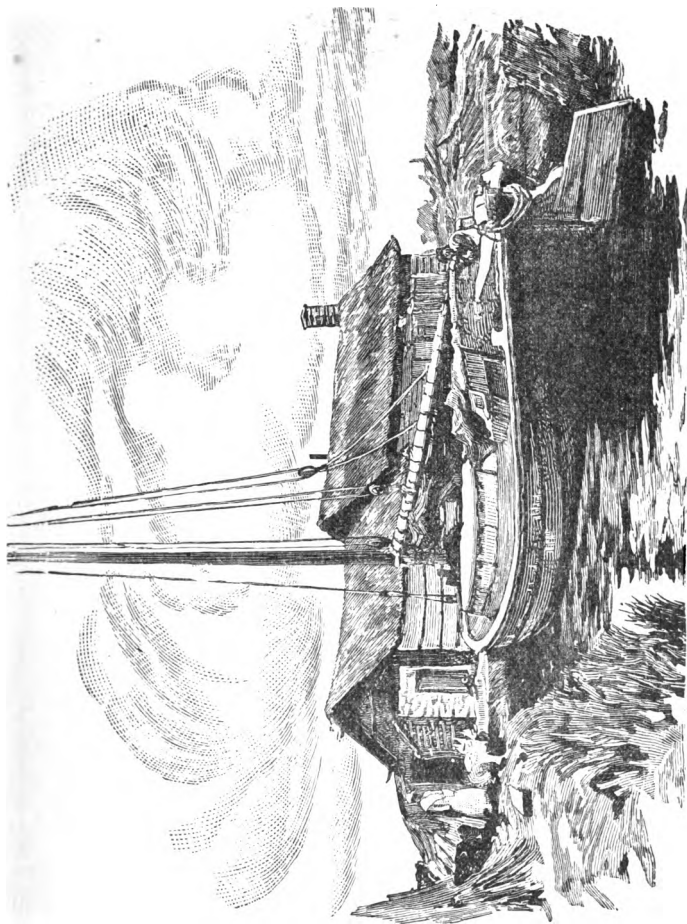
Below Acle Bridge the sport is somewhat uncertain, the water being affected to a great extent by the salt tides. The surrounding country is flat and uninteresting. Occasionally good sport may be had with the bream, as on the Yare, at Reedham, and when these fish are on the feed big baskets may be obtained; but the state of the water in these lower reaches should always be ascertained before arranging for a day's angling, as the colour and condition varies more here than in the middle reaches.

The Ant and Thurne, tributaries of the Bure, are well worth fishing, especially the former. In some places the banks are clear, and one can sit and fish from a stool; in others, the margins are reedy, and a boat is necessary. Roach of good size are frequently taken, and at Irstead Shoals some very fine perch are to be caught, the water being only about 4 ft. deep, with a hard, gravelly bottom. Just before Barton Broad is reached there is some excellent water for pike, of which fine specimens are sometimes taken.

The Thurne, for some inexplicable reason, is not so good as one might expect. I have fished it several times, but have only succeeded in making one decent haul. This was near the entrance to Womack Broad, a pretty piece of water, but it is

much grown up, and offers few attractions to the angler. The water in the Thurne is fairly good, being nearly as deep as that of the Bure near it.





DYKE AT POTTER HEIGHAM.





## THE WAVENEY.

THE third of the trio of rivers that empty themselves into Breydon Water is the Waveney, and this in some respects is a finer river than its sisters, the Yare and the Bure.

In its upper reaches the angling is chiefly for roach and pike. From Diss down to Beccles the roach fishing is excellent, the best waters being those between Harleston and Ellingham, and, in this locality, pike of large size and nice shape are taken in good numbers in the season. From Beccles downwards, the river is fished very little, owing to the inaccessibility of the water and the scarcity of boats. The only public-house, on the banks from here to St. Olaves, where boats can be obtained, is the Waveney Hotel, at Burgh St. Peter, and this is miles away from a railway station.

The highest point on the river to which yachtsmen generally ascend in large craft, is Beccles, the trip to Geldeston Lock being usually undertaken in the dinghy. It is a very pleasant sail through a pretty country, much more interesting than the flat, marshy borders of the river below the town. The river is winding, and the banks, although diversified with patches of wood, are devoid of anything that would tend to keep off the wind.

The chief characteristic of the Waveney, compared with the Yare and the Bure, is the great depth of water close to its banks, rendering fishing from the shore more practicable than in the other rivers, which have a muddy shallow on each side of their channel.

About a mile below Beccles is Sayer's Grove or Boat's Hill, a wooded slope, resembling Postwick Grove, on the Yare, but of much greater extent. In the reach of river running past this the fishing is very good, and the water in the swim is 11 ft. deep. This is about the average depth of the river for some miles down.

The next really good place is just below the Railway Bridge, while about a mile down stream, in what is locally known as the "Three Mile Reach" (three miles from Beccles), very

good sport may be obtained. Here, on the left bank, is a staithe, near which the boat should be moored.

Further down, on the right bank, is a steam mill, the shaft of which is partly covered with ivy, but it may be easily distinguished by the fact that there is a large black boat-house nearly in front of it. The water here is 11 ft. deep in the swim.

For some way down stream below this point, one reach is as good as its neighbour; in fact, down as far as Burgh St. Peter, the fishing is excellent all the way; but there are a few specially favoured places where lees may be obtained, for example, near a row of pollard willows; and, again, a few reaches down, in a good bay, bordered by a bed of tall reeds. There is also, about a mile below this, the stump of an old tree, near which is a nice swim of 10 ft. All these swims are on the right bank of the river.

Passing a steam mill with an extra tall chimney, we come to Burgh St. Peter, with its peculiarly steepled church, which is sketched and photographed almost as often as the water-gate at Pull's Ferry, Norwich. The swims in this vicinity are about 12 ft. deep. Just below

Burgh is a wide dyke, nearly half the width of the river, on the right. This is Oulton Dyke, leading to the Broad of that name, and in it, in swims ranging from 5 ft. to 7 ft. in depth, the fishing for bream is excellent.

The river below Oulton Broad is comparatively rarely fished, owing to the difficulty of getting boats, but the yachtsman will find excellent bream fishing in the reaches known as the Long and Short Galley and White-house Reach.

At Somerleyton the water is 12 ft. deep in the swim, and 8 ft. close to the shore. Below here the only fishing is for bream, large quantities of which are sometimes caught, one of the best places being opposite Messrs. Bagshaw's Chemical Works, where the water is 15 ft. deep in the stream, and 9 ft. close to the bank.

In the Waveney the tides are tremendously strong, the water rushing through the bridges at Somerleyton and Herringfleet at a great speed, consequently the best way to fish the reaches up for some way above Oulton Dyke is with the ledger; from thence to Beccles the heavy float tackle, recommended for the reaches on the Yare, near Buckenham, should be used, as the water is so deep that unless plenty of shot is placed on the line, the swims are very short.



## RAILWAYS.

### G. E. R.

THE popularity of the Norfolk Rivers and Broads as a holiday resort is doubtless due, in a large measure, to the enterprise of the Great Eastern Railway Company, who are constantly offering some new advantage to the angler and yachtsman. Cheap return tickets, available for from three to fourteen days, are granted by the Company to the inhabitants of the Metropolis, the Friday to Tuesday tickets to the seaside being ten shillings, and the fourteen-day tickets fifteen shillings. These excursions are very convenient to the angler, who may, with a Cromer ticket, stop at Wroxham, North Walsham, Gunton, Lowestoft, or Yarmouth; with a Yarmouth ticket at Beccles, Reedham, Acle, or Lowestoft, and with a Lowestoft ticket at Beccles, Carlton

D

Colville, Oulton Broad, Reedham, Yarmouth, and Cromer. The London angler has thus at his command the whole of the waters of the district.

The inhabitants of the principal towns in the locality have special day tickets provided for them for fishing and yachting, while members of Local Angling Clubs, on presenting their club cards at the booking offices at Norwich, Yarmouth, and Lowestoft, are supplied with return tickets at single fare to the principal fishing stations on the line.

There are also, during the months of July, August, and September, circular trips by rail and steamboat, particulars of which will be found in the Company's time tables. These afford a ready means of seeing the Yare and Bure in a short time, and the trip from Yarmouth to Wroxham by boat on the Bure, thence by rail to Norwich, and from just outside the station by boat back to Yarmouth, is a most enjoyable trip for a summer day.

### **Midland and Great Northern Joint Railway Company.**

The Midland and Great Northern Joint Railway Company's line opens up the more northerly

Broads to the angler, and the Company have done all they can, by offering return tickets at single fares to members of Angling Clubs, to encourage anglers in visiting the waters at Potter Heigham, Stalham, and Ormesby. These places are easily accessible from Yarmouth, but are rather too far away for Norwich anglers. To the inhabitants of the Midland Counties the excursions run in the summer months to this district are a great boon, and the waters near the fishing stations are among the best in the district for all kinds of coarse fish.



## RIVER YARE.

<i>Miles from Norwich.</i>	<i>G.E.R. Stations.</i>	<i>Hotels and Fishing.</i>	<i>Boats.</i>
2.	WHITLINGHAM.	"Thorpe Gardens," for fishing Thorpe Broad, Whitlingham, and Postwick Reaches.	Boats at Hart's and Thorpe Gar- dens.
		"Surlingham Ferry Inn," two miles by river from Brundall Station.	Seven fishing boats, 1/- per day. Two rowing boats, 2/6 per day.
5½.	BRUNDALL.	"Yare Hotel" adjoins the Station, good accommodation for anglers. Little's boat-yard and yachting station. "Coldham Hall," about half-a- mile from Station, is a very good house, offering excellent accommo- dation to visitors and parties.	Good boats at all places named, 1/- to 2/- per day.

<i>Miles from G.E.R. Norwich Stations.</i>	<i>Hotels and Fishing.</i>	<i>Boats.</i>
7½. BUCKENHAM.	<p>"Ferry Inn," half-mile from Station (post town, Loddon), for best fishing on the Yare; accommodation limited; Rockland Broad within easy rowing distance.</p>	Several boats, from 1/- per day.
10. CANTLEY.	<p>"Red House" adjoins the Station. This is now one of the best Inns on the river, having good accommodation for anglers. The house contains eleven bedrooms, and is situate on the river bank.</p> <p>The fishing in the vicinity is very good, ledgering being the most successful method.</p>	Plenty of good boats.
13. REEDHAM.	"Ferry Inn." Limited accommodation.	Fair number.

**RIVER BURE.**

*Miles from  
Norwich.*    *G.E.R.  
Station.*

**11. ACLE.**

*Hotels and Fishing.*

Hotels in village, one mile from river, are the "Queen's Head" and the "King's Head," while on the river bank, near the bridge, is the "Angel."

Good fishing above the bridge for bream, &c.

Good boats at the "Angel."

*Boats.*

*Norwich and Cromer Line.*

**8½. WROXHAM.**

This is the chief Yachting station in the district. There are two inns. The "King's Head" has good accommodation for visitors; the "Horseshoes" limited ditto.

Plenty of boats.  
1/- to 3/- per day.

<i>Miles from Norwich.</i>	<i>Norwich and Cromer Line. Station.</i>	<i>Hotels and Accommodation.</i>	<i>Boats.</i>
8½.	WROXHAM (continued).	The reaches above the bridge afford excellent sport. This is the station for Wroxham Broad, 1½ miles.	Plentiful; 1/- to 3/- per day.
	Ditto.	<p>Horning "Ferry Hotel," about four miles from Wroxham Station, is a comfortable place to stay at, being quiet and pleasantly situated on the best part of the Bure, which is here well-stocked with roach, bream, perch, and pike.</p> <p>Horning "New Inn," situate in the village, is a small inn, but plenty of boats may be obtained here.</p>	Plentiful and cheap.

<i>Miles from Norwich.</i>	<i>Norwich and Cromer Line. Stations.</i>	<i>Hotels and Accommodation.</i>	<i>Boats.</i>
11½	COLTISHALL.	<p>"White Horse Inn" and "Anchor;" usual inn accommodation. Good apartments may be obtained in the village.</p> <p>Fishing sometimes very good, especially for large roach and bream.</p>	Plentiful and cheap.

### THE THURNE, &c.

*Miles from  
Yarmouth.* *M. and G.N.  
Railway.*

5.	ORMESBY.	<p>"Eel's Foot Inn," 1½ miles from the station. Conveyances meet all trains in the summer months. Ormesby, Filby, and Rollesby Broads may be fished from here.</p>	Plentiful; 3/- per day.
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<i>Miles from Yarmouth.</i>	<i>M. and G.N. Railway. Stations.</i>	<i>Hotels and Fishing.</i>	<i>Boats.</i>
9.	MARTHAM.	<p>"King's Arms." Conveyance meets trains in summer months; fair fishing.</p>	Several.
11½.	POTTER HEIGHAM.	<p>"Bridge Hotel" (formerly "Waterman's Arms") and "Falgate Inn." Good accommodation at the former, which stands on the river bank. Applegate's boat-houses adjoin the bridge. Mr. Applegate gives the right to fish "Heigham Sounds" to anyone hiring a boat from him. The fishing in this water is extremely good, especially for rudd in summer and pike in winter.</p>	<p>Plenty. Applegate has 22 boats, from 2/- per day.</p>

*Miles from M. and G.N. Railway.  
Warworth. Stations.*

*Hotels and Fishing.*

*Boats.*

- |               |   |   |
|---------------|---|---|
| 13. CATFIELD. | For Hickling Broad. "Pleasure<br>Boat Inn," on the margin of the<br>Broad, nearly 3 miles from station.           | Few.  |
| 15. STALHAM.  | For Barton Broad and river Ant.<br>Hotels, "Maid's Head" and<br>"Swan." Excellent accommoda-<br>tion.             | Boats of the<br>boat builders at<br>Stalham Staithe |
|               | Neatishead "White Horse" is a<br>good place to stay at to fish Barton<br>Broad; drive from Wroxham or<br>Stalham. | Several.  |

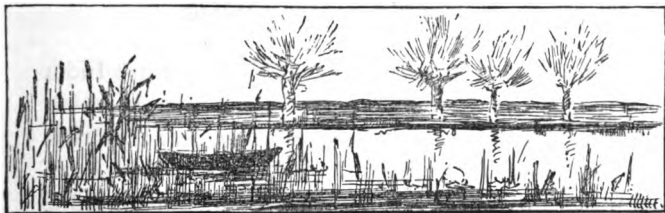
## THE WAVENEY.

*Miles from*   *Norwich and Lowestoft Lines.*   *Hotels and Fishing.*  
*Norwich,*   *Stations.*

*Boats.*

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|------------------|--|--|
| 16. HADDISCOE.   | For Fritton Lake, which is one mile distant from this, and also from St. Olave's Station, on the Lowestoft and Yarmouth direct line.   | Boats at the Old Hall, 3/- to 5/- per day. |
| 18. SOMERLEYTON. | "Duke's Head," near station. Good bream fishing from bank or boat.   | Order a boat beforehand from the landlord. |
| 22. OULTON.      | Hotels, "The Wherry" and "The Commodore," both affording excellent accommodation for anglers and yachtsmen. The Broad is well situated for anglers staying at Lowestoft or Yarmouth, being only about two miles from the former. | Boats plentiful, 2/- per day.              |

<i>Miles from Norwich.</i>	<i>Norwich and Lowestoft Lines. Stations.</i>	<i>Hotels and Fishing.</i>	<i>Boats.</i>
22.	OULTON (continued).	<p>The Broad is more patronized by yachtsmen than by anglers, but in the summer perch and bream may be taken, and in winter numbers of pike are caught. The dyke connecting the broad and river contains sometimes a lot of bream.</p>	Boats plentiful, 2/- per day.
21.	BECCLES.	<p>"White Lion" and "King's" Hotels are both good houses. The river above and below contains a lot of good roach and bream.</p>	Several.



## TACKLE FOR PIKE.

A FEW years ago, anglers thought that almost any tackle would do for pike, so long as it was strong, and it was the custom to use rods of 14 ft., and lines like cables, while the hooks were miniature grapnels. Now, if good sport is to be obtained, the tackle must be fine and the hooks as small as is compatible with some degree of strength. Rods, too, have undergone a thorough revolution, the tremendous "poles" of our forefathers having given place to the light, handy 10 ft. rod of the present day, with which it is found that the bait can be cast quite as far, and the quarry held with as much power, as with the cumbersome 14 ft. rod, while its lightness makes it less tiring to use during a long day's fishing.

The ROD may be made either of East India cane, with two greenheart tops, one of which should be fairly lithe for spinning, and the other stiff for casting heavy livebaits ; or it may be of wood, in which case, an ash butt, hickory middle, and lancewood tops, make up into an excellent rod.

In a rod of expensive make, the tops may be of the same length and thickness, the wood of the tops being selected so that one may be springy and the other stiff ; but, in a cheaper production, it is perhaps best to have the live-bait top rather shorter than the one for spinning.

The rod with spinning top should be from 9 ft. 6 in. in length to 11 ft., to suit the strength of the angler, and should be stiff or whippy, according to the strength of the tackle used, a stout line and large hooks requiring more striking power in the rod than would be safe or necessary with a light line and fine tackle.

The rings may be either of the ordinary upright or new snake pattern, but should be large and of the same size all the way up the rod, finishing at the top with a strong end ring either with inner revolving ring of steel or phosphor bronze, or the Bickerdyke pattern, the latter being more suited to light than heavy rods.

The best ferrules are the "suction joints," so called from the fact that the ferrule and counter are "ground" together, so that they fit accurately, and never fly apart in casting. A good-sized knob or button of walnut or india-rubber at the butt, to be placed against the angler's side, completes the rod.

The REEL should be strong and simple in its construction, and about four inches in diameter, so as to hold from 60 to 100 yards of line. It may be either of walnut or ebonite, and should have a large barrel to enable the angler to wind up the line quickly. A strong check is desirable, as is also some kind of "line guard" ("line *guide*" would be a better name), the Bickerdyke pattern being one of the best.

The LINE is one of the most important items of the pike fisher's equipment, and should be of solid eight-plait silk, left plain if the angler cast from the reel in the Nottingham style, but waterproofed or "dressed" if to be cast from a coil at the angler's feet, in the Thames fashion. For live-baiting, a well-made fine line, of good quality, is best for long and accurate casting; but for spinning, a somewhat heavier line is desirable to withstand the constant friction caused by the casting out and drawing in of the bait. For Norfolk

waters a good-dressed line of about 60 yards is the best that can be used. For live-bait fishing, this should be rubbed with deer suet or paraffin wax to make it float on the surface of the water, from the action of which it also tends to preserve it. In very cold weather the application of castor-oil to the line prevents its freezing to the rings of the rod, but this has to be renewed occasionally, as the castor-oil has an affinity for water, and, consequently, is soon washed off. When the angler comes home after a day's fishing, he should always unwind the line from the reel and let it thoroughly dry before re-winding, as dressed lines have a tendency to heat and rot if left to dry upon the reel.



"Fishing  
Gazette" Pike  
Float.

"Jardine."

The FLOAT for live-baiting should be just sufficiently buoyant to hold up the bait and lead, but not so large as to be seen from below the surface in clear water, or to offer much resistance to the air in casting. It may be egg-shaped (in which case the "Fishing Gazette" pattern is good, and is very convenient for changing floats according to the size of the bait), or it may be long, like the I have now adopted a barrel-shaped

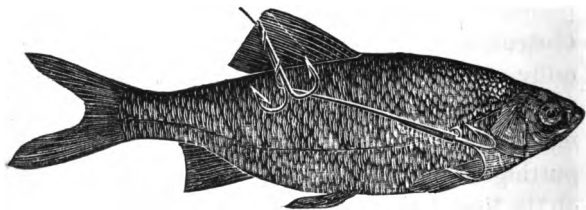
float. This, I think, is preferable to the egg-shaped pattern, as it is small in diameter in proportion to its length, and tapers off at each end to a point, which makes it easily pulled through weeds or other obstructions. Pilot floats are best quite round, and it is sometimes advantageous to fix one about 18 in. above the large float, first putting about three others loose on the line above it. These, when cast out, will buoy up the line at intervals, effectually preventing its sinking.

Of TACKLES there are several patterns in the market, many of them indifferent, and a few fairly good. Among the latter are the Jardine and the Bickerdyke-Jardine. The Jardine snap-tackle consists of a sliding treble hook, with one of the hooks set up slightly from the others to fix in the back of the bait, and a fixed treble having one of the hooks very small to be placed just behind the gill cover. The Jardine-Bickerdyke, is the

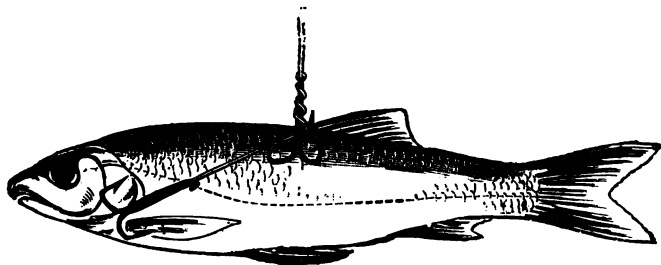


Barrel-shaped  
Pike Float.

same tackle, improved by a reverse hook being substituted for the small ordinary hook on the gill triangle. Another tackle, the invention of "John Bickerdyke," is similar in some respects



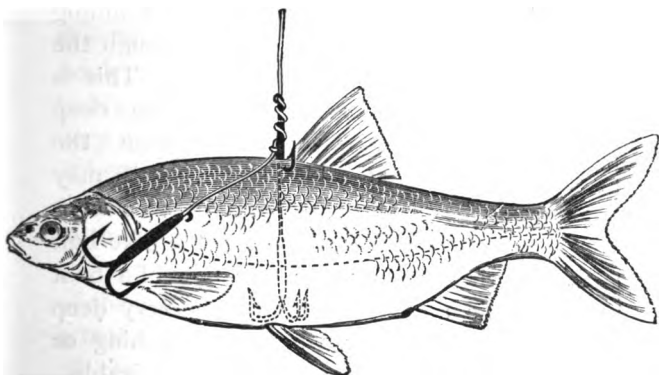
"Jardine" Snap-tackle.



"Jardine-Bickerdyke" Snap-tackle.

to the Bickerdyke-Jardine, but it has a hanging treble, which is very good for clear water, where there are no weeds for the pendulous hooks to catch in.

Other tackles, if tackles they may be called, are the Ryder, which is one treble hook, with one of the hooks set up above the others, this upper hook to be fixed in the back fin of the bait, and the plain triangle, an ordinary treble hook of fair size. These should be mounted on twisted gut if the water is clear, and on gimp if the water



"Bickerdyke" Snap-tackle.

is coloured. The plain treble is the hook mostly used by local pike-fishers, and is sufficient for any but large baits, the only disadvantage in its use being that when a run takes place the angler should not strike till the pike has had time to turn and move off with the bait, If this is done, the stroke pulls the hook back on the fish, and

it generally takes hold in one corner of the mouth.

Of other tackles used with live bait, the PATER-NOSTER and LEGER or LEDGER are the chief. The

former is a very good tackle, especially when made on the snap principle, that is, with two sets of hooks, one a treble to fix on the back, and the other a sliding single to put through the lips of the bait. This is useful for fishing deep water, either from the

bank or boat. The Leger, which may also be of the snap pattern, is a convenient tackle for laying out a pike bait at the stern or even the bow of a boat while angling, or for fishing very deep or swift water, where float fishing or paternostering would be impracticable.

SPINNING TACKLES, or flights, as they are often called, are many and varied. For convenience I place the "Norfolk" first. This consists of two treble hooks, fixed about one inch apart on a short length of gimp, at the other end of which is a loop, which is passed in at the vent of the bait and out through the lips. This spins

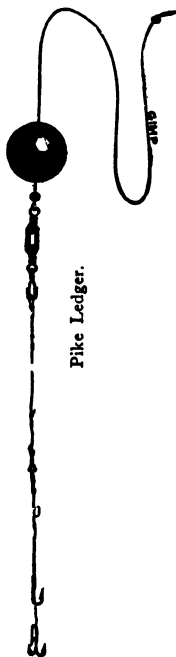


Pike Paternoster.

a roach (the usual bait in Norfolk) very well, but the tackle I would recommend in preference is the "Davies," which is an improvement on the before-mentioned, designed by Mr. G. Christopher Davies, by whose courtesy I have have been permitted to name it after him. This tackle has, in addition to the two trebles, a single fixed hook one inch above the top treble. This tackle I have been very successful with, and find it is best baited by being threaded through from one side of the bait to the opposite eye. This gives a better hold on a stronger part of the bait, and the hooks are in a better position for taking hold of the mouth of an attacking pike.

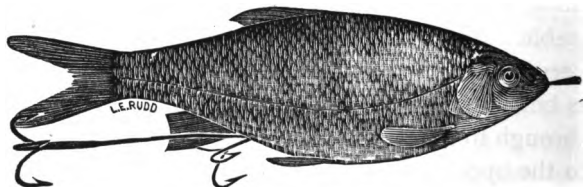
The only other flight which I consider worthy of notice is the "Pennell," with which every pike-fisher is familiar, and which is a splendid tackle for dace.

There are, of course, several other kinds to which different anglers pin their faith, such as the



"Thames" ; but the failing of all tackle of this kind is that the hooks are in the hollow of a curved bait, and while they prick many fish hold but few, especially when the bait used is a roach.

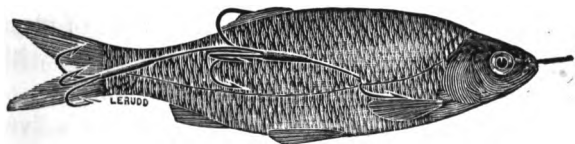
For fishermen who are not adepts at adjusting a bait on a flight, there are several ingenious tackles, called "spinners," which, although differing in the arrangement of the hooks and the method of affixing the bait, are all caused to spin



The "Norfolk" Spinning-tackle.

by a pair of fans at the head, on the screw propeller principle. Of these, the Archer, Chapman, Corkscrew, and Champion, may be mentioned as being good and effective. They hook and hold fish well, there being no curve in the bait to throw a fish off the hooks ; moreover, they are easily and quickly adjusted, and spin a bait well. To my mind the Corkscrew is about the best, taking, as it does, a very good hold on the bait, and being easily screwed in with cold fingers.

TRACES next demand our attention. For both live-bait fishing and spinning the best material is gut, either single salmon or twisted. The first is the more costly, but the latter, except for very clear water, is about as good. For live-bait fishing, a twisted gut trace should be made of two lengths of gut, *i.e.*, about half-a-yard long, with a small barrel lead on the lower length, and a buckle or hook swivel at the *lower* end to attach to the tackle. Of spinning traces the "Fishing



"Davies" Spinning-tackle

Gazette" pattern is about the best, and should be from 3 ft. to 4 ft. 6 in. long, with not less than two swivels made up in it. Two separate swivels are better than one double one, especially for fishing weedy water, as there is less chance of the separate swivels getting both fouled together than of a double swivel being rendered *hors de combat* by the first weed they come across. Gimp is still a favourite material for traces with some anglers, but is objectionable on account of its

brightness. There is, however, a new rust-proofed steel wire gimp, which makes excellent traces if well and carefully made up, so that the bindings do not draw apart. This wire-gimp is as invisible as twisted gut, but is not quite so soft, and, consequently, does not give as well to the twists and turns of a hooked fish. In the hands of a skilful angler, who can always keep a tight line on his fish, this objection is of little consequence.

I have said nothing about leading the spinning trace, because I consider that lead is out of place on the trace, especially the old barrel lead, with a hole through its length for the purpose of threading the trace. This is all right on a live-bait trace, which has not to revolve, but does not answer well for a spinning trace. Nowadays expert anglers use leads which hang down below the level of the line, and prevent kinking by compelling the swivels to act. There are several kinds of leads which are designed for this purpose, the *Fishing Gazette* lead, the "Thames," the "Pennell," and last, but by no means least, the "Davies anti-kinking lead." These are all good and equally effective. The three first have



"Davies" Anti-kinking Lead.

already been described several times, but the latter is a new affair, on the principle of the "Fishing Gazette" lead, from which it differs in having a fixed wire instead of a safety-pin arrangement, and in hanging lower. The first alteration is to prevent its becoming detached from the line in casting, and the second to enable the angler to use a much lighter lead for fishing shallow or weedy waters.

Having described the tackles, we will now consider the baits to be used on them.

For LIVE BAIT dace are, by some anglers, considered best, but in Norfolk roach are generally used, and, when mounted on the tackles described, are good enough lure for Norfolk pike, as the magnificent specimens in the collections of Norfolk anglers fully show. Large gudgeon are splendid bait, and when nothing else is procurable, fresh white sprats may be tried with success.

Of ARTIFICIAL BAITS there are hundreds of patterns, from the plain spoon to the gorgeous imitations of trout, dace, and bleak. Of spoons, the Norwich, Colorado, and American are about the best, after the plain silvered spoon, which I think cannot be improved upon. Of baits, which are more like a small fish, the Phantom stands

foremost, followed by the Devon, either silvered, gilt, or painted, according to the colour of the water. The Swivel-tail, made either of celluloid or metal, is a very good bait for *Esox lucius*, and is an improvement in many respects upon some of the imitation fish, of which latter the Caledonian minnow is perhaps the most killing. In some waters, the natural eel-tail is an attractive lure, and the artificial imitation, which is wonderfully well made, should prove quite as good.

Other requisites for the pike fishermen are bait can, gaff, disgorging, and bag. Of these I need not say much, except that the bait can should be roomy enough to hold the bait without undue crowding, especially when a long journey lies between starting point and destination, and the gaff should be powerful enough to lift out bodily a fish of 30 lbs. or 35 lbs., if one as heavy should be encountered, and in some of our waters this is not at all unlikely.





## FISHING FOR PIKE.

MANY and varied are the methods of presenting baits to the notice of pike.

The most killing styles used in Norfolk are—

- (1) Live-baiting with snap tackle.
- (2) Spinning with natural and artificial baits.
- (3) Paternostering.
- (4) Ledgering.

I have arranged the above in the order in which they are esteemed in Norfolk.

LIVE-BAIT FISHING with snap tackle is the best adapted for fishing broads, and is used occasionally on private streams, but is not very successful, and, therefore, rarely practised on navigable waters. From careful observation, it appears to me that, except when cast directly

over a fish, and at once taken, the live bait of the angler forms the centre of attraction to the small fish in the water in which it is cast. These gather round it, possibly in astonishment, till a pike comes along, and as the free fish get away quickest, the hampered bait of the angler is taken. It is perhaps advisable that the bait should be in a lively condition, and presented to the pike's notice as naturally as possible, because a strong bait will travel about over more ground, and, probably, in its peregrinations, come across a pike. On the other hand, a bait which is not so lively, so long as it can swim naturally, is more likely to be taken, as pike can more easily seize it, and are more likely to do so when they see it struggling along, than when swimming quickly, for pike are the natural scavengers of fresh water, and especially prey on sickly fish.

I have already described the tackles for live-bait fishing in a preceding chapter, and now wish to direct the angler in using them. Suppose a broad is to be fished. If the margin is bordered by tall reeds, moor the boat just as far from them as will allow you to cast with comfort and accuracy. If casting from the coil, and if the boat be free from inequalities and projections, around which the

line would catch, lay out, on the floor, what you estimate to be the quantity of line necessary to reach nearly to the reeds. If you wish you may take a preliminary cast to ascertain exactly the amount of line required. Now attach your bait to the tackle, and, taking hold of the rod with one hand and the line with the finger and thumb of the other, swing it back and then forward with sufficient force to cast the bait within a yard of the reeds, releasing the line from the finger and thumb directly the bait has swung out in a line with the rod. Now sit down and await results. If after a few minutes you do not have a run, draw the bait towards you a few yards, and again wait a little while. If nothing comes of this, take out the bait and cast in another direction, and thus work all the water in front of you, moving to a fresh position when you have fished the spot thoroughly. When you get a run, lift up the rod gently, draw in the slack till the line is tight on the fish, then strike, sharply enough to drive the hooks into the fish, but not too hard, so as to hazard a breakage either of your tackle or your hold. If you are using a Jardine or Bickerdyke "Snap," you may strike the instant the floats disappear; but if the ordinary treble or ryder hook, let the fish move off with the bait and

then strike in the opposite direction to that in which he is going. On feeling the hooks, the fish, if a fair-sized one, will probably make a vigorous rush in the endeavour to free himself. Lift your rod up into a vertical position and get him on to the cheek of your reel, and continue to play him from the reel, giving and taking in line till he is exhausted, when you may draw him up to the side of the boat and gaff him.

Most anglers gaff a pike by putting the hook under the belly and striking upwards, but "John Bickerdyke," in his able work on pike fishing, recommends gaffing over the back, near the tail. Personally, I prefer to insert the gaff in the gills, so as not to disfigure the fish.

Some of our broads have, instead of a sharply defined margin of reeds, a wide stretch of shallow, partially covered with sedges and reeds. In the winter many pike lie up among the "boulders," as the reed stumps are called in Norfolk. If there are any open pulks among these, you should force your boat through the reeds up to them and cast out into the clear water; but if the water is not open, and there is still, to your mind, a chance of a lot of pike lying among the boulders, force your boat in as far as possible and splash about with the oars to frighten the fish out into

the broad ; then, having done this for some distance along the margin, cast your bait out in front of the reeds and wait for the pike, which you will probably catch as they return to shelter.

In fishing a river with live-bait float-tackle from the bank, try first down your own side of the stream by dropping the bait into the water at your feet and letting it go down with the current for, say, thirty yards : then follow it, carefully guiding it in its course so as to keep it clear of weeds or other obstructions.

After working your own side, make a cast into the middle of the stream, and having given this a thorough trial, cast across to the other side and treat this in a similar manner. Of course, these instructions only apply to water which is deep up to the banks.

If a river is being fished from a boat, it is advisable to let the baits travel down-stream, in the undisturbed water in advance of the boat, and the baits being cast close up to either bank.

There is in some rivers a succession of holes and shallows. These have to be worked according to the condition of the water. If the stream is swift, try the holes and quiet lay-byes, behind weeds, in the mouths of dykes, under the roots

of any projecting trees ; in fact, try behind anything that gives a shelter from the force of the current, for there will the pike gather out of the heavy water.

In SPINNING, the more open the water the better ; but, if you use a Norfolk tackle and a very light lead, just sufficiently heavy to prevent the line from kinking, you may easily spin in water from one to two feet in depth, and as the hooks in this tackle are almost covered by the bait, you can draw it through very reedy or weedy places without its catching them.

As in live-baiting I directed the angler to search all the waters, so in spinning. Cast into every hole and corner, thoroughly searching every place that would be likely to hold a fish. With the Norfolk tackle, you can, if you wish, work the bait so as to make it appear like a live fish, by drawing it in very slowly. The hooks hanging from the vent act as ballast, keeping the bait, particularly a roach, in a perfectly upright position in the water, so that a slow movement will only pull it along without causing it to turn over, and it is often very deadly, if manipulated in this way for the first part of the cast, and then drawn faster just before it is lifted from the water.

As I have before stated, I believe that pike perch, and trout, are always more disposed to take a sickly fish than one full of life and vigour, and, doubtless, they take a spinning bait for one that is somewhat "out of sorts."

Many people call "trailing" a spoon or other bait behind a boat "spinning," but there is a vast difference between the two. Unfortunately, trailing is very killing, but it is neither so sportsmanlike nor so artistic as spinning. I consider that spinning, as it is done by some of the best exponents of the craft, is second only to fly fishing.

To proceed with my instructions; if you are fishing deep water, spin deeply and slowly; if shallow water, hold the rod higher and spin more quickly, so as to keep the bait on the top of the water. If the weather is cold, fish nearer the bottom than in mild weather, and always draw as slowly as possible so long as the bait spins well.

PATERNOSTERING is not much in vogue in Norfolk, but in some rivers where the water is deep up to the edge and the banks are good, it is a very killing method. Use a long rod and swing, rather than cast, the bait out into the water; let the weight sink to the

F

bottom, and hold it there for a few minutes, then draw it in a little, and again hold it awhile and so search the water wherever you think there is the chance of a run.

The LEGER (or LEDGER) is, if anything, used less than the paternoster ; but it is, nevertheless, a useful tackle for fishing strong waters. Here, in Norfolk, we have very few places where the water is too swift for live-baiting with the ordinary float tackle, but for fishing some of the mill pools and swollen streams in winter it is very good. It is useful, too, for laying out at the end of a boat while angling for other fish. All you have to do, is to fix on a bait, swing it out into the stream, and wait till the movement of your line tells you something has happened, then strike and play your fish in the usual way.





## ROACH, BREAM, AND PERCH TACKLE.

THE ROD for angling in such deep waters as the Yare and Waveney, and also the Bure below Thurne mouth, should be from 14 ft. to 16 ft. in length, but for ledgering, one of 12 ft. is amply long enough. For the upper reaches of either of these rivers a 12 ft. rod is all sufficient for both roach, bream, and perch fishing. Whatever its length, the rod should be as light as possible, compatible with the stiffness required to strike a fish quickly, and of course should be strong enough to withstand the play of a heavy fish without risk of straining. "Tight-line" fishing, known as the Norfolk style, is gradually giving place to a new style, also distinctly Norfolk. In

fishing in the old tight-line method, the line is the length of the rod, and is looped on to the end ring, but in the new style a running line is used. This is wound on a reel and threaded through the rings on the rod, in the same way as Nottingham tackle ; but the rod being longer, the length of line depending from it is not increased, except, occasionally, at the end of a swim, and is chiefly used as a reserve with which to play an unusually heavy fish. The great advantage of this method is that tackle of the finest description can be used, and, consequently, the chances of catching fish are greater, and the sport which ensues is better.

The LINE generally used in Norfolk is fine, eight-plaited silk, usually undressed for tight-lining, but often waterproofed for fishing with a reel, as a waterproofed line is much less likely to kink and curl from the action of the water. The finest plaited silk procurable will, when used by a skilful angler, hold any roach, but for bream a size or two larger is advisable.

Of FLOATS there are dozens of different kinds, varying in size from the tiny porcupine to the huge cork barrel float. For the upper reaches of the Yare, say, as far down as Brundall, a medium-sized porcupine quill is a useful float,

and for fishing on the Bure, from Wroxham to the mouth of the river Thurne, nothing could be better. Lower down-stream, below these points, a large pelican quill, or a float made of a combination of reed and quill, or reed and wood, is about the best. These will do for either roach or bream fishing. I often hear people talk of roach and bream floats, but really what is wanted is a float buoyant enough to hold up the quantity of shot requisite to sink the bait, and, this obtained, it will do equally well for either fish.

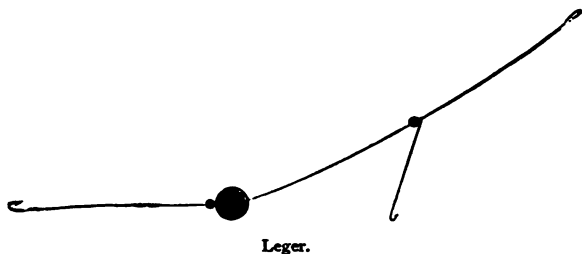
For perch fishing, a float of stouter proportions is generally used, and of this kind that known as the "taper cork on porcupine" is what I would recommend.

GUT, for the bottom of the line, is one of the most important items of the angler's equipment. For bream fishing, that known in the trade as "regular," is generally used; but, if the water is at all clear, "fina" is by far the best. This, if of good quality—and cheap gut is worse than use-  
less—will be found strong enough for the largest bream, and it is also a useful grade for roach fishing in coloured water; in fact, some anglers use nothing else for roach, bream, and perch fishing. For roach fishing in clear water, however, there is none to equal "drawn" gut, which

by being "drawn" through steel plates is deprived of its hard, enamel-like coating, and thus rendered less glossy. This drawing process no doubt weakens the gut to a considerable extent, still it is strong enough, with ordinary skill in handling, to hold a good roach; but of course the angler must use a landing-net for all his fish. When drawn, the gut has none of the glitter that undrawn gut possesses. Gut should be round, clear, and free from specks, and should be soaked in the water for a short time before fishing, as this not only makes it keep out straight, but it is more than twice as strong when wet than dry.

We have now got down as far as the HOOK. Scores of different shapes have been invented, some with points twisted on one side, some with square bent shanks, and some with round bent shanks; while there are others, with a peculiar bend, known as the Limerick, and when left of a bright steel colour, called the "Crystal." This is a favourite with many roach fishermen, but to my mind there is no hook so good and reliable as the round-bend or Carlisle. In this there are no sharp angles, which must be a source of weakness; it is easy to bait with paste, worm, or gentle, and it hooks and holds fish well, whether roach, bream, perch, or carp.

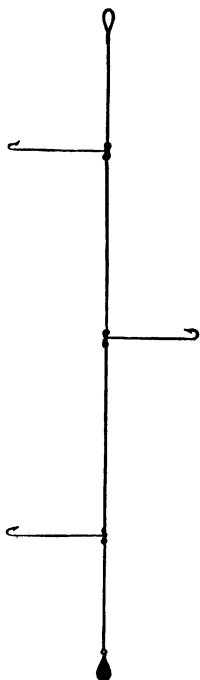
The REEL for coarse fishing should be of wood, fairly free-running, to allow of the line being easily run through the rings at the end of a swim, and provided with a check, to be generally kept on while fishing, especially if you are at the end of the boat meeting the tide. If at the other end, use your own discretion in this matter, but be careful that the line does not run off the reel and get foul of something when you are playing a fish.



Special tackles for roach, bream, and perch fishing, such as the ledger and paternoster, next call for attention.

The LEGER, or LEDGER, as it is often spelt, is a capital tackle for both bream and roach fishing ; for the latter it has only recently come in vogue, but has rapidly gained favour, as it kills larger fish than float tackle. It consists of a 3 ft. length

of gut, looped at each end ; one hook is attached to the lower loop, just above which a split shot is pressed on. Now slip on a pierced bullet or flat leger lead, large or small, according to the strength of the tide, and put another split shot on the middle of the gut, with a second hook above it, and the tackle is complete. The top loop is for attaching it to the reel line.



Perch Paternoster.

The PATERNOSTER consists of a length of gut 3 ft. to 4 ft. long, having at its lower end a pear-shaped lead and three hooks affixed at equal distances apart along its length. These hooks are tied on short lengths of gut, so as to stand out at right angles to the main line, round which they should freely revolve.

A KEEP-NET for hanging over the side of the boat is a desideratum, as it keeps the fish fresh till the end of the day, when any that are not retained may be turned alive into the water.

I need not say much about the other paraphernalia, such as **LANDING-NET**, **BASKET**, **DISGORGER**, **PLUMMET**, &c. Have a large landing-net, which will fold up to go in the basket, which, together with the keep-net, should be of good size, as one never knows when one may have a good catch and require something large to hold the spoil.

**GROUNDBAITS** should not be forgotten till the morning of fishing, as some of them take some amount of getting ready. Wheat should be prepared by being steeped in water for one night and then slowly boiled till the husk splits and the white interior shows itself. Another excellent groundbait is made by steeping old crusts of bread in water over-night and mixing them, when soaked, with sufficient bran to form the whole into a fairly compact mass. Rice may be prepared in a similar way to the wheat, and is a very attractive groundbait for roach. The "Norfolk" groundbait is very acceptable to anglers who do not like the trouble of boiling wheat, &c. It is equally good for roach and bream, and is easily prepared after the boat is moored, by mixing it with sufficient water to make it up into firm balls. The gentles which have "turned red" in the tin, *i.e.*, changed into

the pupa state, should not be thrown away, but be used with the groundbait, and are at times very attractive on the hook.

HOOK BAITS are as varied as the fancy of the angler likes to make them. For bream, lob and brandling worms are the best lure. Chapters have been written about scouring worms, but my recommendation to the angler in Norfolk is, use them fresh. I firmly believe that a soft, freshly-dug worm is more attractive to bream than the tough, leathery, so-called "scoured" worms. The latter may be better in some other districts, and also for trout, but in this county are not so good as the fresh.

For roach fishing, gentles are an excellent bait. These should be scoured by being placed in sand, bran, or sawdust. They can be procured at any tackle makers, ready for use. For general roach fishing there is no bait to equal bread paste. This should be prepared by soaking a piece of the crumb of a stale baker's loaf in water and squeezing it as dry as possible in a cloth. It may be coloured red or yellow, but for the Yare it is generally found to kill more fish, if used quite plain, although a yellow ochre colour is occasionally better. On the Bure a red or pink paste is a good bait. Whatever the

colour the bait should be made up as cleanly and as pure in tint as possible.

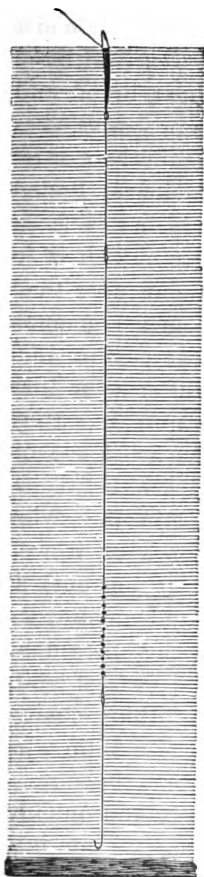
The best of the grains of the boiled wheat should be selected from the groundbait, as these are at times a splendid lure for both roach and bream.





## ROACH, BREAM, AND PERCH FISHING.

SOMETIMES anglers go out prepared to catch any fish that may be in the particular swim in which they moor their boat ; at other times the mind is made up, previously, as to what fish shall be sought, and this kind alone is tried for. The general mode of procedure is to row down the river till a "lee" is found, and then try and ascertain what fish, whether roach and bream, are "on the feed." A "lee" is a sheltered spot on the river, where the angler will be out of the wind, and the swim free from undue ripple, which would tend to move the float so much as to make bites undiscernible. The object of the chapters describing the rivers is that anglers may be able



Float-tackle.

to ascertain where they are likely to find good swims according to the direction of the wind.

Having moored the boat along the stream, parallel to the bank, and as far out as may be necessary to command the water it is desired to fish, with a pole at each end of the boat, and, if the wind is very strong, a line out to the shore as well, the first thing to do is to plumb the depth. Attach the plummet to the hook and cast in. If the top of the float is level with the surface of the water, it will be in its exact position, for when relieved of the weight of the plummet, the float will buoy the hook up so that it travels about one to two inches above the bottom. Now take a swim down, and if the float travels all right, you may conclude that there are no weeds, and

may now put in the groundbait. This is made in a variety of ways by different anglers, each with the idea that his is best. Boiled wheat, bread and bran, boiled rice, brewers' drains or grains, &c., are the most useful, and are placed in their order of merit, according to the writer's idea. Boiled wheat needs to be used sparingly, as it feeds the fish, and the object of the groundbait is to attract the fish, without feeding them more than can be helped. I do not believe in using much of any groundbait, so would advise casting in a small quantity to start with, and after a few fish have been caught, throw in some more, repeating this at intervals, especially if the fish leave off biting.

Having placed the groundbait in the swim, exactly opposite the boat, by throwing it well up in the direction the tide (or current) is coming from, bait your hook and commence fishing. What shall you bait with? Begin by trying for roach, and put on a nice piece of white paste. If that does not attract anything, change to boiled wheat or gentles, and, these failing, try a worm, and see if there are any bream about.

In fishing for roach, strike sharply and quickly, but at the same time not too hard, or you may break the line or the hold of the hook. Do not

wait for the float to be taken under, but strike at the least semblance of a movement on the part of the float, or even on its stopping in its career down the tide. The strike in roach fishing cannot be given too quickly. When a fish is hooked, play him as near the top of the water as you can, so as not to disturb any others that may be at your groundbait, and draw him to the landing-net as soon as you have tired him sufficiently to enable you to do so with safety.

As the day goes on, note whether the tide is going down or up, and alter your float accordingly, so as to keep the hook always, as nearly as possibly, in the same position as when you started. If necessary, plumb the depth again once or twice during the day, but do not do so if you can gauge the alteration in the depth without.

In fishing for bream with float tackle, it is customary to let the bait "trip along" the bottom, or, at any rate, let it be quite close to it, say, two inches lower than in roach fishing. Brandling and lobworms are the usual baits for this fish, which takes more time over its feeding than roach do. If, when fishing with a worm as bait, the float moves about slightly and then comes up till it lies flat upon the water, do not strike, but wait till it begins to go down, and

tighten when it has just dipped below the surface. Bream suck at a bait, and, in doing so, push it along the bottom and often lift the shotted line, thus tilting the float, consequently it is unadvisable to strike till after the bait and with it the hook has been taken into its mouth by the fish.

By far the most killing method of fishing for bream, and it is also adopted by some anglers for roach, is legering. The chief drawback to its use is that it lacks the charm of float fishing; there is a lot in seeing the float disappear, and this, to some anglers, is almost as much as catching the fish. To use the leger, we proceed as in float fishing; but attach the leger to the running line without any float. Then bait with worms, or, what is better for both bream and roach, big pieces of paste. Do not be afraid of putting on too much, but cover up each hook in a lump as big as the end of your forefinger, and give the fish time to eat it. This is the secret of success in legering. Of course the hooks must lie among the groundbait.

The leger may be used with success on any of our rivers, and even on a windy day, but it is generally best to use it in places below Brundall, and above the Bure.

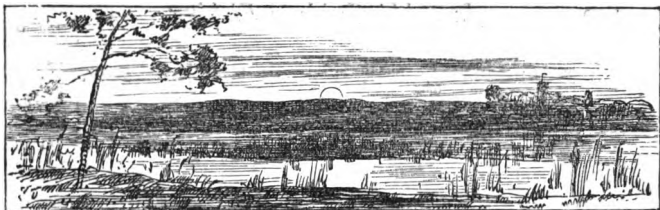
Armed with efficient float and leger tackle, used as directed, the angler may disport himself on any of our waters, but there are some places which require peculiar fishing. To be successful on such places as Barton Broad with the bream and rudd, the following is the best mode:—Row steadily about the water, watching its surface till you come across a shoal of fish, now throw in your groundbait and affix a mark, such as a reed with a stone tied on one end to moor it to the bottom; next row a good distance away, and then round the reed in gradually narrowing circles, to drive the fish to the groundbait, till you are within casting distance, which, on a piece of water as shallow as this, should not be less than 20 yds., then moor the boat and commence fishing. For this purpose you must use the finest waterproof line, with a float which will carry ten or twelve fair-sized shot, so as to give it weight, to be able to cast accurately. Fish well up to the reed, which should be your mark to aim at, and, above all, keep as still as you can, so as not to rock the boat. Immediately on hooking a fish, hold him hard and draw him away from the others as soon as possible, or the whole shoal will disperse, and it will be some time before they return to the groundbait.

Perch are often taken when angling for roach and bream with gentles or worms, and very large ones are sometimes caught when live-baiting for pike; but it is not usual for them to be angled for exclusively except at the time of the roach spawning, when, as the roach are busy depositing their spawn on the weeds at the edges of the river, the perch follow them and devour it in great quantities. At such times a paternoster, baited with minnows on the top hooks and a worm on the bottom one, dropped quietly over the bank, is very killing. Good sport may often be had on the gravelly shoals of the Bure, and also on the Ant at

Perch  
Float.

Irstead, with a similar tackle to that used for bream fishing, the only difference being in the float, which for perch should be a cork one, as I have said in the preceding chapter.





## PRIVATE FISHINGS.

THE private fishings of Norfolk may be divided under two headings, viz., trout fishing and coarse fishing preserves. These last may be again subdivided into those that strangers have access to by paying a fee, and those that are only fishable by permission of the owners.

The trout waters are all strictly private, with one exception, the Wensum, at Fakenham, which is rented by the Wensum Preservation Society.

This Society was started at Fakenham, in 1882, by a few gentlemen living in that neighbourhood, the most prominent among them being the late Sir Willoughby Jones, Bart., of Cranmer Hall, Sculthorpe; the late Captain Hamond, of

Thorpland Hall, Fakenham; the late Rev. E. W. Dowell, of Dunton Vicarage; Mr. Charles Hamond, of Twyford Hall, Bintry; and Mr. Charles Horsley, of Fakenham. The extent of water acquired by the Society originally consisted of about twelve miles, from Raynham Hall, the seat of the Marquis Townshend, to Ryburgh Mills. Owing to the fact, however, that the Raynham Estate has recently been let, the Society has lost a part of the fishing rights it had in the upper waters of the river, although through the kindness of the tenant, Sir Edmund Lacon, they are still allowed to fish the greater portion of the waters flowing through this estate.

The main object of the formation of the Society was the preservation of trout, the waters, especially the upper reaches, being well adapted to these fish. With this view the necessary apparatus for the breeding and rearing of this fish was obtained, and, for a few years, mainly through the untiring energy and trouble taken by Mr. Chas. Horsley, the then secretary, the rearing of trout was attended with a very large amount of success, many thousands of fry and yearlings being turned into the Society's waters. Owing, however, to the great amount of time and labour attendant on the successful breeding and the

expenses, it has been found to be better and cheaper, of late years, to purchase yearlings. These the Society have been enabled to obtain from Colonel Custance's fishery at Weston, near Norwich, at a very low price. Many thousands of fry have been successfully transferred into the waters, and that they have done well there is no doubt.

Besides trout, the Society have introduced grayling into the waters. These fish have increased enormously, it being now not unusual for a bag of five or six brace of these fish to be made in a day.

The Society's season for trout extends from the 1st of April to the 1st of October. From the 1st of April to the 1st of August, the killing of trout by any means except artificial fly is strictly prohibited; from the latter date to the end of the season, upon certain parts of the water, spinning with the minnow is allowed.

Generally speaking, the Society's waters, especially the upper reaches, are most favourable for trout and grayling. The bed of the river is principally gravel, with deep holes, shelving towards the end of every bend, of which there are many, the river being very winding.

It has been thought by many members of the

Society that by means of weirs the waters might be further improved, but, owing to the difficulty of obtaining the consent of the riparian owners, this has not yet been done.

There are three large mills on the stream, the pools of which are full of fish. At Sculthorpe Mill there is a clear stream of running water flowing into the river, the bed of which is composed of the finest gravel and chalk. Numbers of trout and grayling take advantage of this stream, during their respective breeding seasons, to deposit their ova here.

The Society's members now number about forty; many of these come from different parts of England. A water-bailiff is employed to look after the waters, and is always at liberty to accompany members (if desired) when fishing.

The present President is Mr. Chas. Hamond, of Twyford Hall, Bintry, Norfolk; and the Secretary, Mr. Ratcliffe Pope, of Fakenham; Mr. W. C. Pearson being Assistant-Secretary.

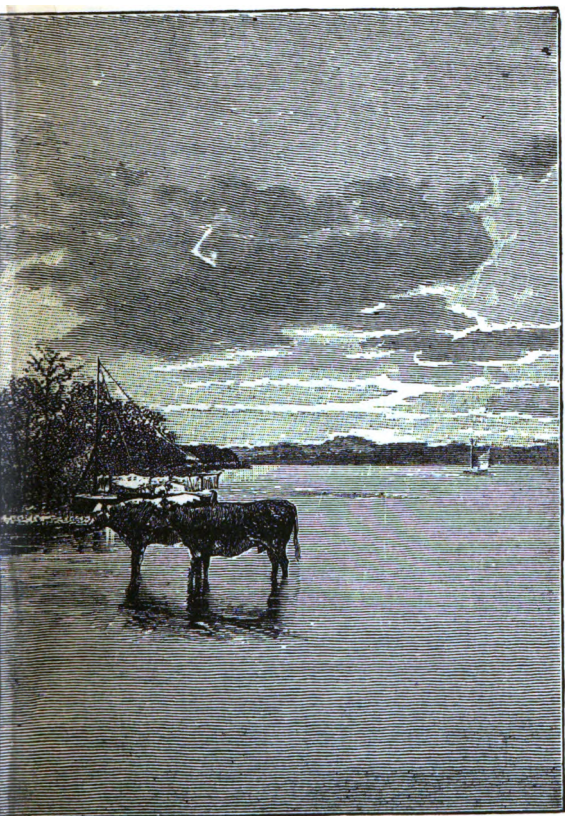
The two Railway Companies running into Fakenham, viz., the Great Eastern and the Midland and Great Northern Joint Railways, issue cheap tickets to members.

The entrance fee to the Society is three guineas, and the annual subscription one guinea.





WROXHA



**BROAD.**



Day tickets may be given by members to their relations or friends staying with them ; these are issued at 2/- each.

Not only are the Society's waters noted for trout and grayling, but they also contain some very fine roach and dace. Pike are kept down as much as possible. During the time the Society has existed, thousands of these fish have been killed, until, at the present time, they may be said to be almost exterminated.

The best months for fishing are May and June with the dry fly, and a skilful angler ought to have no difficulty in killing three brace of fish, averaging 1 lb. each in the day. During the early part of June the May-fly hatches out in the upper reaches in great abundance, and the trout have a busy time of it.

The two biggest trout which have ever been caught in the waters, weighed 9 lbs. and 8 lbs. respectively. These were both killed by Mr. Charles Horsley, in his mill pool at Fakenham, and are now in his possession.

The size limit for trout is 11 inches, and members are restricted to five brace in a day.

In the waters of the Wensum, above and below that part in the hands of the Society, there is some good trout fishing, and in the

Bure above Aylsham there are a lot of these fish, and the stream being well suited to them they thrive wonderfully. This water is strictly preserved. The rivers Nar and Stiffkey are full of trout, and are only to be fished by permission from the riparian owners.

There are several other streams in Norfolk which contain a few trout, while others either hold only a few roach and dace, or are untenanted except by minnows and gudgeons. Some of these might be made, with the expenditure of a little money and trouble, into excellent trout streams. It is surprising what may be done with only a small flow of water. Almost all that is required is to have sufficient so that at no time the temperature of the water is above 70 degrees Fahr. Where this is the case a little dredging here and a few boulders or some such impediment to the stream there, and perhaps an occasional wood weir or two, would soon turn a neglected, useless beck into a nice trout water which would give capital sport to the owner and his friends.

Of waters preserved for coarse fish, Wroxham, Barton, and Hickling Broads and Potter Heigham Sounds may be fished by payment.

WROXHAM BROAD, situate close to the Bure,

about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles from Wroxham Bridge, is the first to be considered, as it is the most accessible. Wroxham Broad—the most beautiful of the Norfolk broads—is a fine sheet of water, and looks lovely under any circumstances, whether the glory of a hot summer day, the quiet of a moonlit evening, or under the fast imprisonment of the icy hand of King Frost, when boats are useless and skates take their place as a means of progression over its wide surface.

To the coarse fisher Wroxham Broad offers many attractions, for bream, roach, perch, and pike innumerable are to be found in its waters. Sport here is rather uncertain, but when the fish are on the feed bream may be taken by the hundredweight; in fact, a catch of 19 stones was taken by two rods in one day in 1894. The best spots for fishing lie along the river side of the broad, about 30 yards from the reeds. This is the deepest part of the broad, which is here from 9 ft. to 10 ft. deep. The bottom is a level, slightly tilted, so that the river side is 10 ft. deep, while the opposite side shallows off to, in some places, a sloping shore. Sometimes good catches may be had in the middle of the Broad, but this is rather unusual.

Perch, often of good size, are to be taken near

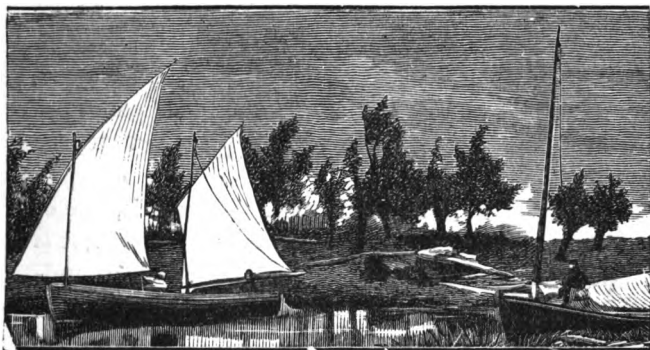
the piles of the old reed-house, which has now become a complete wreck, and in the bays along near here, numbers of small pike are caught in the autumn and winter. During September and October the best time for pike fishing is from early dawn till about eleven o'clock in the morning, but in winter these fish may be obtained at any time in the day.

The fishing on the Broad is strictly preserved, but anyone may fish on payment of half-a-crown per day per boat. This is collected on the broad by the lessee (Mr. John Ellis) or his keeper.

BARTON BROAD is one of the most productive pieces of water in the county, and is equally famed for its pike, bream, and rudd fishing. The fishing rights are in the hands of Mr. Allen, keeper, Neatishead, to whom the angler pays two shillings per boat for the privilege of fishing for one day. The method of bottom fishing on this Broad has already been described in the chapter on bream and roach fishing, while for pike it is especially necessary on this water to fish the reedy bays, as they will be found far more productive than the open, particularly for anyone unacquainted with the Broad, the bottom of which is undulating, and which only people

who fish it constantly can hope to have any knowledge of.

HICKLING BROAD is the largest in the district, with its area of over 400 acres, and its low shores make it appear much larger than it is. The fishing for roach, perch, and pike is excellent, and is in the hands of Mr. J. Nudds, keeper,



HICKLING STAITHE.

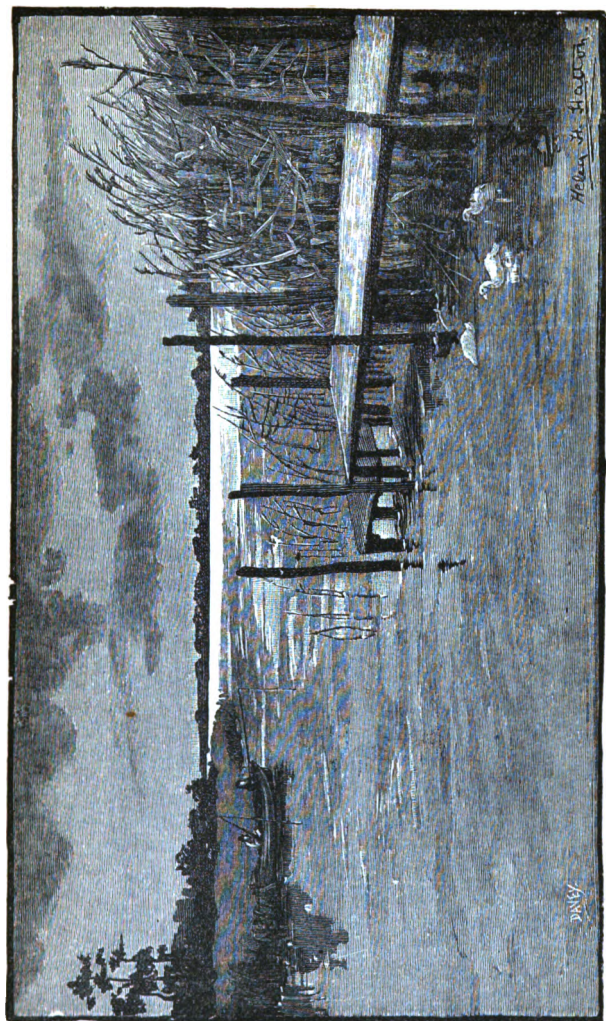
Catfield, who charges 1/- a rod per day, which, considering the extent of water, is extremely reasonable.

The celebrated HEIGHAM SOUNDS adjoin Hickling Broad. These are owned by Mr. Applegate, of Potter Heigham, and the hiring a boat from him gives the hirer the right to fish.

The "Sounds" are a series of bays and inlets, with a connecting channel running through them. These bays and reedy "pulks" are the haunts of immense pike, which are taken in great numbers in the winter months. Other coarse fish abound, and to the fly-fishing tourist the rudd, especially in August and September, gives excellent sport (see chapter on fly-fishing).

ORMESBY, ROLLESBY, AND FILBY BROADS are more accessible to visitors to Yarmouth than to the tourist and yachtsman. Bream, roach, pike, and eels are plentiful, and some good perch are often taken. Boats may be procured at the "Eel's-foot Inn."

On the Yare there are only two broads, one of which, ROCKLAND, is free fishing, or, rather, it is in the hands of the copyholders of the surrounding property, and, as in a lot of other places, what is every one's right is no one's; so strangers come and fish it as they like, and sometimes, particularly after a flood, good pike fishing may be had, although the place is constantly fished. The best spot is on the left-hand on entering the broad, among a number of reed islets that are dotted about the water and close to the bank in the bay by a boat-house, but occasionally fish may be picked up almost anywhere.

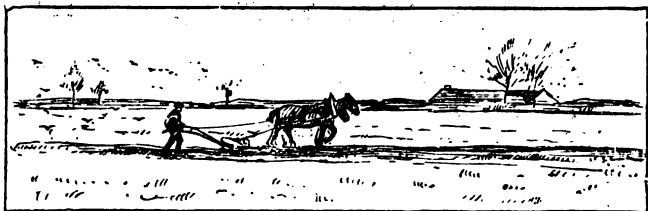


ORMESBY BROAD—LANDING STAGE.



All the other Broads in Norfolk are private and strictly preserved, in most cases more for the wild-fowl than for the fish, and being so little disturbed are extremely good, especially the pike fishing. I shall not give particulars of these, nor even enumerate them, as this would be unfair to the owners. All I can say is, lucky is the angler who can get the requisite permission to fish for pike, for in all of them these fish abound in almost incredible numbers and of great size, as witness the splendid specimens in the possession of the Norwich Angling Club and in the homes of many local anglers. Nowhere in England are there better pike waters than in Norfolk, and they are not likely to be depleted yet awhile.





## FLY-FISHING IN NORFOLK.

FLY-FISHING, the highest branch of the angling art, is usually associated with salmon, trout, and grayling, but, unfortunately, here in Norfolk the lordly salmon does not occur, and the other game fish are not abundant. The only water into which grayling have



been successfully introduced, is that rented by the Wensum Preservation Society at Fakenham. Here they flourish, and sometimes in the autumn good baskets of them are taken with suitable flies, of which the most killing are the red tag, black hackle, and olive dun, all of them dressed on the smallest of hooks.

Trout, as I have already stated in the chapter on private fishings, are confined to such streams as the Nar and Stiffkey, and the upper waters of the Bure and Wensum, to the former of which I believe they are indigenous.

In fishing for trout in Norfolk both the dry and wet fly are used by various anglers according to the weather, season, and condition of the water. The wet fly is generally used on the private and rarely-fished streams, but, on such slow-flowing water as the Wensum, the dry fly not only takes more fish, but the fish are more likely to be over the standard size, and there is no doubt but that if the same style were adopted on other streams (for none are what might be called swift), it would be found far more profitable than what is jeeringly called in some parts of England the "Chuck-and-chance-it system." The tendency among local fly fishermen is towards dry fly, and no doubt it is greatly for the reason given, though, doubtless, many have adopted it because it is a more artistic and sportsmanlike way of taking trout.

In the way of tackle, a 10 ft. 6 ins. fly rod, light and handy, but stiff, a double-tapered waterproof silk fly line, and fine tapered casts to suit, are all that are required in Norfolk, except of course the flies.

Some local anglers aver that March brown flies, varied in size to suit the time of year and the colour of the water, will always kill trout in Norfolk; but I am sure this is erroneous. The March brown is a good fly, undoubtedly, but there are times when others are better. The angler who uses the best imitation of the fly on the water makes the best creel, whether it is in Derbyshire, Hampshire, or Devonshire, and the same applies to local streams.

Sometimes there is no fly up, and the angler must then have recourse to one of the various "fancies" that are known to kill under such circumstances.

For trout fishing in Norfolk I would recommend, to those who have not tried them, the Professor and the Wickham Fancy, both of which have often filled a basket when no other fly will touch a fish. Of course these are in addition to the usual copies of natural flies which must always take the precedence when fish are rising.

For the fly-fisher, who has no trout fishing of his own, and who can only get permission for an occasional day's trouting, fly-fishing for coarse fish comes as a welcome substitute. All our upper waters contain dace, and in them the

roach rise well too, while on Barton Broad and Heigham Sounds the rudd gives splendid sport.

For dace fishing with fly there is no place in the district better than the Wensum (locally called the Back River), above the New Mills, Norwich. Here, on a warm afternoon or evening, when we can escape the fleet of boats that frequent this water in the summer, capital sport may be enjoyed, and the fish are of good size, running up to 12 inches, and exceedingly game.

The tackle for fly-fishing for coarse fish consists of a fly rod of the ordinary type, but stiff, so as to be able to strike the instant a rise is seen. It should not be more than 11 ft. long, and as light as possible to have the necessary stiffness. The line should be of waterproof silk, not too heavy in the centre, if tapered ; the object in having it fairly light is that this prevents its bagging down when drawing the flies slowly through the water. A check reel to hold the line, a few casts, landing-net, and some thick-bodied flies, complete the outfit. The best flies for dace are the cochybondhu, soldier palmer, and black gnat ; for roach and rudd, red and black palmers and the governor ; but, as already stated, any thick-bodied fly kills well in Norfolk, so that for a change may be added to the fly

book, alder, coachman, and others of this class. These will all be found more killing if a piece of wash-leather, cut to the size and shape of a gentle, be placed on the shank of the hook. It is customary in fly-fishing for roach and dace to use three flies, tied at equal distances apart on a 3 yd. cast ; but unless the water is very open and free from weeds, two flies—a red and a black one—are all sufficient and far safer. These are cast



Fly, with wash-leather  
for dace fishing.

across the stream ; some anglers advocate casting rather downstream ; but if the river is fairly wide, the cast may be made straight across and the tide will work it slightly round.

The line should, immediately on touching the water, be drawn tight by an upward movement of the rod, which should be very slowly continued till the flies are brought as close to the angler as will leave room for him to make his upward switch for the next cast.

The angler should strike quickly, but, as in all other fishing, not so hard as to endanger his tackle or the hold on the fish, immediately on seeing a rise, and in roach fishing should watch for the wave which these fish make in following

the fly, and should strike instantly on any alteration in the direction of the wave, or on seeing the line tighten. Sometimes roach, particularly large ones, will follow the fly for some distance without taking it. When this happens the angler should lower the rod a little so as to stop the fly, and then strike.

When in the pursuit of rudd with the fly, the rodster has first to find the fish. This may easily be accomplished by throwing out a few pieces of bread upon the water close to the reeds. The fish are attracted by the falling crumbs, and soon congregate in good numbers, and the angler can use the bread as objects at which to aim his flies in casting.

There is another method of catching rudd which is sometimes more killing than fly-fishing: the tackle used is the same, but the lure is a bunch of gentles, three to six in number, placed in a writhing mass on a fair-sized hook. These should be swung out rather than cast, or else cast with a wider sweep of the rod than in fly-fishing, and it has generally been found that the "flop" which they make on the water is rather an attraction than otherwise to the fish. Immediately a fish is struck it should be held and played with a firm hand, or it will soon bolt for the reeds or

other shelter, and leave the fisherman with a broken cast. Upon landing a fish, repeat the cast in the same spot as the fish was caught, for they, unlike trout, swim in shoals, and, if not disturbed too much, the whole shoal may be taken in succession.

Sometimes, especially on an evening following a hot summer day, the same fly fished dry, or a split-winged red-quill gnat or blue dun, will be found very killing for dace. In fact, very large dace are in some waters only to be caught in this way, and require almost as much fishing for as trout. When the dry fly is used for coarse fish the line should be the same as for trout, and it is the better for being greased with mutton fat, as it will then float on the surface of the water.





## NORFOLK FRESH-WATER FISHES.

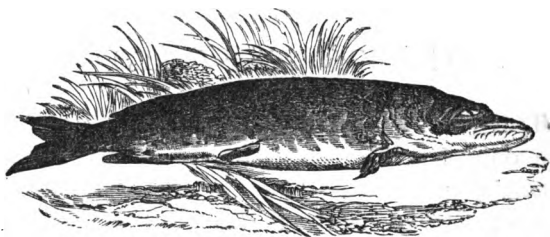
### The Pike (*Esox Lucuis*).

THE pike, called in some districts "Jack," is the only English representative of the family *Esocidæ*, and is so distinct in appearance from any other fresh-water fish, that most people, and certainly all anglers, know him well.

Long in build, with lines as fine as those of a racing cutter, he is admirably adapted for preying on the juvenile cyprines which form his food, and which his capacious jaws, armed with a terrific array of sharp teeth, enable him to hold with the grip of death. Note, too, the formation of these jaws, how the lower one protrudes beyond the upper, and you will see how Nature has adapted him for catching the small fish

which swim over him as he lies at the bottom, to which his colour can be matched till he is quite invisible.

The colour of many fish is chameleon-like, changing with the hue of the bottom on which they lie ; thus a pike, lying on a gravelly shallow, will be light like the gravel, but if he moves to a muddy and darker background, he soon assumes the same colour.



THE PIKE.

The form of the fish and the position of the fins give him immense speed, which enables him to overtake his prey.

The rate of growth of pike is a very moot point, and, like that of all other fish, depends upon the supply of food. Where this is plentiful, the average growth may be taken, from what I

can gather from various authorities on the subject, about  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. the first year, 1 lb. the second year, and increases by about 2 lbs. a year for a few years, and then decreases again to about 1 lb. a year, so that the age of a well-fed fish of 12 lbs. would be about eight years, while one of 30 lbs. would probably be twenty years old. All fish grow in length as well as in girth, as long as they live, provided they are in good health, so that a short thick fish would be younger than a long thin fish of the same weight.

The amount of food consumed by pike is undoubtedly enormous, and probably the reason why they are not more easily caught by the angler, is that in the summertime pike feed at night, or very early in the morning, and I firmly believe that in the winter pike often feed on bright moonlight nights, and that good sport might be obtained then.

When pressed by hunger pike will eat almost anything—roach, bream, rudd, carp, perch, young ducks, and water-fowl. Until lately the tench had been thought to enjoy an immunity from the pike's voracity; indeed, in the time of Isaak Walton, the tench was said to act as physician to the pike, whose sore places he was reputed to have anointed with his slime, which, it was

averred, had a healing effect on the wounds ; but that this is erroneous has now been made certain. I have now in my possession a pike of 7 lbs., with a 3 lb. tench firmly embedded in its jaws. The two were picked up in a dying condition on South Walsham Broad, in February, 1894, and when brought to me the tench was still breathing. This brings us to another question, viz., the size of bait a pike will take. In November, 1895, Mr. Ellis, the lessee of the fishing on Wroxham Broad, picked up a pike of 20 lbs. with a bream measuring 15 ins. in length and 7 ins. in width, and which was estimated to weigh about 2 lbs., firmly fixed in its jaws.

While spinning one day with a 7 in. roach, I caught a pike about 6 lbs., which, when opened, contained over a dozen little roach about the size of a minnow. This shows that the size of the bait is immaterial for fish of ordinary dimensions, but it is desirable to use big bait when large fish are sought, as this precludes the likelihood of a small fish being taken.

All sorts of tales have been told about the size to which pike grow. The late Mr. Frank Buckland in his book, "The Natural History of British Fishes," says, "from the time of Gesner, downwards, more lies---to put it in very plain

language—have been told about the pike than any other fish in the world ;” and “John Bickerdyke” is evidently of the same opinion, for he says, “I believe seven-eighths of the stories about big pike to be untrue.” Doubtless a few immense pike have been taken on the Continent and in Ireland, and there is at Kenmure Castle the head of a pike measuring 9 in. across it, and the weight of the fish is said to have been 72 lbs., but the yarn about the pike 260 years old, and sundry others similar, will not do.

Of pike caught in modern days, that taken in November, 1879, by Mr. A. Jardine, and which weighed 37 lbs., is generally supposed to be the largest ; but I claim that the largest was caught in Norfolk waters, and was taken by Mr. Frank Thorns, of Norwich, for Mr. Frank Buckland says that Mr. Jardine’s fish, “after being out of the water twelve hours, scaled  $34\frac{3}{4}$  lbs., and measured  $46\frac{3}{4}$  ins. in length.” Now, Mr. Thorn’s fish, after being out of the water 24 hours, weighed 36 lbs., and measured 48 ins. in length, and when shown at the Norwich Fisheries Exhibition, 1881, was said by all who saw it to be much larger than Mr. Jardine’s (which was also exhibited), and was awarded the medal for the largest fish.

Of other large pike caught in Norfolk, one

taken by Mr. English, weighing 30½ lbs., another mentioned by Mr. Buckland, 32 lbs., caught April 2nd, 1870, and the magnificent specimens in the possession of the Norwich Angling Club and several local anglers, may be given as sufficient evidence that the pike fishing in this county is of the highest order.

Pike generally spawn in March, though occasionally a fish is taken later in the season which has not deposited its ova, and the productiveness of a large fish is enormous. Mr. Buckland gives the number of eggs in the 32 lbs. fish above-mentioned at not less than 595,200. The spawn is deposited among the weeds in shallow bays and creeks, and the young fish hatch out in about thirty days.

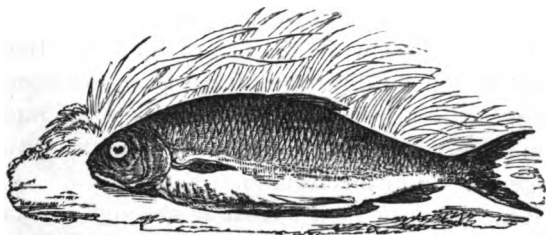
## The Roach.

The roach is found in nearly every piece of water in England, and in many parts of Scotland and Wales, but it is not found in Ireland, where the rudd is called the roach. It is a very handsome fish, with its greenish back, silvery sides, and reddish fins.

Roach are gregarious, and wander about the rivers and broads in shoals of varying size in

search of food, which consists of the larvæ of various aquatic insects and also of confervæ, known to anglers by the name of silkweed. In shallow streams these fish also take surface food in the shape of floating insects.

The most remarkable feature in the physiology of the roach is the formation and position of the teeth, which are situate in the throat, and consist



THE ROACH.

of two bony plates with irregular projections on their opposing surfaces.

"John Bickerdyke," in his admirable work, "The Book of the All-round Angler," says that roach vary from a few ounces to about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. I very much doubt if a fish of the latter weight has been taken in England during the last twenty years, and I believe I am right in saying that the magnificent specimen caught by Mr. T. Lord, of

Norwich, in the River Bure, at South Walsham, and now in the possession of the Norwich Angling Club, is the largest authenticated fish of its kind. This fish, when weighed late in the evening of the day of its capture, scaled 3 lbs. 2 ozs. Most authorities on matters piscatorial have seen this fish, and all have pronounced it to be a true roach and the largest they have ever seen.

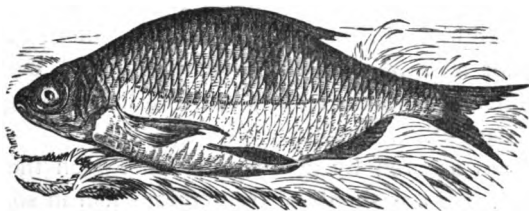
The best roach in Norfolk are those of the upper Wensum ; next to these those of the Yare and upper Bure, while the fish of the lower Bure, from Wroxham downwards, are poor specimens, except at South Walsham, where there are numbers of very fine fish. These are chiefly taken on ledger tackle in the autumn.

Roach deposit their spawn at the end of May or beginning of June, on the weeds at the margin of the water. While occupied in this duty they are often covered with numbers of black spots of a fungoid growth, and are very rough to the touch.

### The Bream.

There are two species of bream in our waters, the common or carp bream (*Abramis brama* Günther), and the white bream (*Abramis blicca*).

The difference in the young of these fish is indistinguishable to an unpractised eye ; in fact, the only structural difference between the two species is in the teeth, which in the common bream are arranged in a single series of five in each bone, while in the white bream they are placed in a double row of five teeth in one and two in the other. As they increase in size the common bream becomes of a deep brown colour, in some



THE BREAM.

cases almost black, with the head of a rich golden bronze, but the white bream always retains the colour of its youth.

Some naturalists describe a "Pomeranian" bream, but these are now known to be merely hybrids between the bream and the roach. These are common in our waters, and are often taken by the angler.

Bream thrive in ponds and slow-running rivers, and the waters of Norfolk are exactly what bream love, and consequently contain immense numbers.

In the Wensum, above the New Mills, there are some immense bream, supposed to be the remains of a lot put in there at different times by a former resident of Drayton, who used to go fishing at Buckenham, and, having made a good catch of these fish, put them into a water-cart which he had follow him and transport them to the Wensum, near his home. These fish thrived astonishingly in their new abode, although they do not appear to have bred there, and every summer specimens from 7 lbs. to 8 lbs. in weight are caught.

I am assured by people who have seen them, that there are shoals of tremendous fish in some of the deep holes in this river, but the water is so clear, and the fish so wary, that it is the work of a day to capture one fish.

I have the largest that was ever taken from this water, and it has often been referred to in the angling press as the largest bream ever caught on rod and line. It is a fine fish of  $9\frac{1}{4}$  lbs., and was caught in the Wensum, or "Back River," as it is locally called, in 1870.

The largest known bream is one that was taken

out of a pond at Beeston Regis, near Cromer, and which weighed  $11\frac{3}{4}$  lbs. This was found in the mud when the pond was drained, and was the sole inhabitant of the water.

Bream, like roach, are gregarious, and frequent chiefly the slow-running parts of the rivers, although they are often found in the summer as low down the Yare as Reedham.

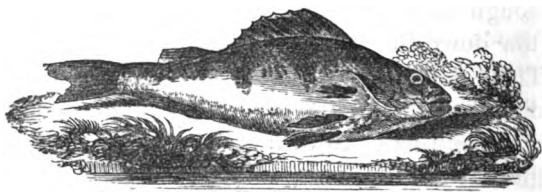
Their food consists of aquatic larvæ, weeds, and also, I should think, in a great measure, of the ground-bait thrown into the water by anglers.

They spawn in May and June, and like roach are very rough to the touch at this time, and the male fish are covered with large tubercles on the head and scales.

## The Perch.

The perch is the handsomest fish that swims in our rivers and broads. He has a fine physique, with his hog-back and well-rounded form, while his golden brown sides, striped with bars of black, and his gorgeous vermilion-coloured fins, give him an almost military appearance, and on his back he carries a fine array of sharp bristles, which he can raise or depress at pleasure.

The perch is found in all the Norfolk broads and rivers, and in the quiet places in these waters attains a great size. He particularly likes the neighbourhood of piles and posts and secluded spots in the bends of the rivers, and also the



THE PERCH.

dykes leading to most of the broads. The more gravelly or sandy the bottom, the more likely to find perch on it; and, for this reason, the side of the river next Wroxham Broad is a favourite haunt, while the piles of the old reed-house are much frequented by these fish.

There are records of perch having been caught of 5 lbs. in weight, and Mr. Gunn, naturalist, Norwich, has some up to  $4\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. each in his collection; but anything over 2 lbs. may be considered a very good fish.

Perch spawn at the end of April, and the

spawn consists of a broad band of network, composed of pearly eggs, often more than a foot in length. Houghton says, "The band is a hollow tube, and can be put on the wrist like a bracelet." The young fish attain a length of about 2 ins. the first year, and 5 ins. the second year, afterwards increasing in size in proportion to the amount of food they eat. This food consists of larvæ and the small fry of other fish, of which they eat quite as much as a pike of the same weight.

Perch are delicious fish for the table, and are best prepared by being opened and cleaned as soon after being caught as possible. The outside should not be touched, the fins and scales being left intact, and the whole fish should be wiped thoroughly dry. If they are then grilled till nicely brown they are excellent eating without any sauce.

## The Rudd.

The rudd is the prettiest fish of the *genus Cyprinidæ*, and is very like a roach, except that he is of a golden instead of a silvery colour, and the back fin is placed some distance behind the

ventral fin, while in the roach it is immediately over it.

The diet of the rudd is, like that of the other cyprines, of an omnivorous description, and consists of larvæ, insects, molluscs, and vegetable matter.

It is found in most of the broads, especially in Barton Broad and Heigham Sounds, where fish of large size abound. The Rev. Houghton says, "The Norfolk broads are waters where the largest and handsomest fish are found."

Rudd are gregarious, like roach, and are the only fish of the broads that rise to a fly. They spawn in April and May, and deposit their ova on the weeds in the pools and shallow bays of the waters they tenant.

## The Tench.

Tench are found more often in ponds than in rivers, but in the Bure and Yare, the slow waters of which seem to suit them well, there are large numbers of fine fish, although they are not often taken by the angler.

The tench is of a dark greenish bronze hue, and is more tenacious of life than any other fresh-water fish.

They spawn in June, and the young fish grow very quickly, often attaining the weight of half-a-pound at the age of twelve months.

Their food consists of worms, insects, and vegetable matter. In winter they lie dormant in the mud at the bottom of the water, and during this time they do not feed.

The male fish may be distinguished from the female by his large cup-shaped fins.



THE TENCH.

In some parts of England fish of 6 lbs. have been taken, but the largest I can trace as having been killed in Norfolk weighed 5 lbs.

### The Ruffe or Pope.

These little fish are found in all our rivers in

such numbers as to be often an intolerable nuisance to the angler, whose bait they take with such voracity that, when a lot of them are near, other fish have not the least chance of being hooked. When perch-fishing the angler often takes them on baits nearly as large as themselves.

The usual size of the ruffe is from 3 to 6 ins., but larger specimens are taken occasionally. In



THE RUFFE.

1895 Mr. G. Whincop took one of  $7\frac{1}{2}$  ins., and weighing  $3\frac{1}{2}$  ozs. This now adorns the club-room of the Norwich Angling Club. This is the largest known Norfolk specimen, but others of about the same size have been taken in various parts of England.

## The Trout.

In Norfolk streams the indigenous fish is the common trout, *Salmo fario*, but in some places,

such as the Wensum Preservation Society's water at Fakenham, the Loch Leven variety (*Salmo levenensis*) has been introduced with great success, the fish having adapted themselves well to their new abode in the stream, which evidently suits them. They have also crossed with the native fish and produced a stock of fine trout.

The common trout is a lovely fish, brown above and silvery white beneath, and spotted on its sides with black and red spots. The Loch Leven trout differs from the common in being much more silvery, and in the spots being less clearly defined.

Trout spawn in the early winter, and are in fair condition in Norfolk by April, when they are to be found near the strongest water in the stream, watching for their food as it is carried down by the current.

The heads and tails of pools are always sure to hold a fish or two. At this time of the year they rise well all through the day, but, as the season advances they feed early in the morning, and again at dusk, lying during the day under the shelter of beds of weeds or overhanging banks. When feeding they poise themselves just below the surface of the water, and suck down every fly which comes down anywhere

near them. Each big fish in a stream seems to have his own particular feeding-ground, and if he is extracted by an angler, the next best fish in the vicinity immediately takes his place.

The food of trout consists of aquatic insects, such as the ephemeridæ and perlidæ, and their larvæ, fresh-water shrimps, the smaller aquatic molluscs, land insects in their various stages of development, that are blown into the water or drop off the trees and bushes that overhang the banks, and the young fry of dace and roach, and their own species also, together with gudgeon, minnows, and other small fish. To put it in other words, they are entirely carnivorous.

In some waters trout grow to an immense size ; one, the largest ever killed, being over 29 lbs. In Norfolk fish of 8 and 9 lbs. have been taken, but when they reach 2 lbs. they are good fish, and are then best out of the stream on account of the enormous quantity of young fish they consume.

### The Dace.

Dace are beautiful little fish, bright and silvery in colour, and nearly resembling trout in shape, and in some respects in habits also.

They are found in the swiftest parts of our

streams, and more particularly in the upper waters of our rivers. In the Wensum they grow to a good size, and fish of 12 ins. long have been taken in this river with fly. A fish of this size gives capital sport when hooked.

Dace spawn in March or April, and afterwards resort to the swiftest part of the stream, spreading themselves over the shallower parts later in the season. In winter they are to be found in the deepest parts of the rivers, and may be often taken with a worm as bait.





## SEA-FISHING ON THE NORFOLK COAST.

THIS branch of angling has come greatly into favour during the last few years, since it became fashionable to use a rod, and fish more like one is used to doing in fresh water. The rod has been found not only to give more sport, but to allow of the use of finer tackle and lighter leads than the old system of hand-lining.

On almost any day in the season some anglers are to be seen busily plying their craft from the piers at Lowestoft, Yarmouth, and Gorleston; while at other places where no piers exist, boats are chartered, and the anglers, having dropped anchor a short distance out from the shore, fish

in a similar way to that adopted by the pier fishermen.

Oftentimes neither boat nor pier are available, and the angler, using a sturdy rod and a heavy weight at the end of his hundred yards of line, stands on the shore and casts beyond the breaking billows.

Sea-fishing is a fine healthy pastime, and there is also, beyond the fascination of sport, the knowledge that the first taken are for the most part edible. This fact has considerable weight with some, who do not believe in taking life for the sake of mere sport. *Chacun à son goût*, it is not for me to defend them nor to call them "pot hunters." All I wish to do is to point out to those who have not tried it, this way of spending some of their leisure pleasantly, profitably, and healthfully—pleasantly, as everyone knows it is pleasant to be at the seaside, especially when one has "something to do," without which a holiday becomes monotonous; profitably, because one not only catches good, wholesome food, but can learn something of Nature in sea and air; and healthfully, because there is just enough exercise in it to prevent one getting lazy, and the fresh air and invigorating breezes bring new life to the whole system.

The tackle required for sea-fishing is simple and inexpensive; for the Norfolk coast, a rod, reel, line, ledger, and paternoster, being all that are necessary.

The ROD should be stiff and strong, and not more than 9 ft. long; in fact, a rod of 7 ft. is amply long enough for most purposes. There should not be too many rings on, but they should be large, and of end-rings, the pulley pattern is the best.

REELS for sea-fishing are now made without the box of the ordinary Nottingham pattern, and with a narrow, deep groove, to enable the angler to use a long line and to reel in quickly. For 100 yds. of line the reel should be quite 6 ins. in diameter, and is best made of mahogany, as this wood does not warp.

The best LINE for ordinary sea-fishing for cod and whiting is plaited hemp, a size or two larger than an ordinary pike line. Some anglers use twisted lines for sea angling, but they are objectionable from their being so apt to kink with the action of the water. All lines should be well washed in fresh water and carefully dried after use.

The LEDGER for sea-fishing is made on the same principle as that for river fishing, but it

should be much heavier; gimp or twisted gut are the most useful materials. The lead should be as flat as possible, to prevent its being washed along the bottom by the tide, and may be of any weight, from 2 ozs. to 1 lb., according to the strength of the tide and the depth of the water.

The PATERNOSTER is made on a similar style to that used for river work, but should have brass spreaders to attach the hooks to, or the gut on which they are mounted would soon be entangled with the main line. These can, with the rest of the outfit, be readily obtained of most tackle makers.

In my opinion the best HOOKS are eyed Kirby Limericks; the advantage of their being "kirbed," *i.e.*, twisted to one side, is that they take a better hold of the wide, gaping mouth of cod or whiting; moreover, hooks of this kind are generally of finer temper than the tinned, and consequently will stand more strain.

BAITS used in sea angling are lugworms, mussels, shrimps, and whelks. These can all be procured of the fishermen in the locality in which the angler proposes to ply his craft.

The fish taken on the Norfolk coast, which is sandy, are chiefly cod and whiting.

Often in the autumn good sport may be

K

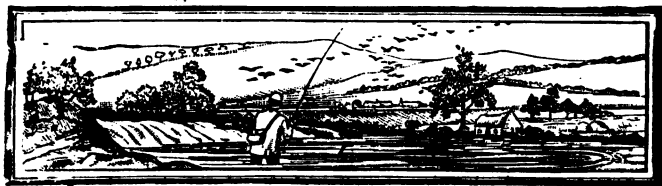
obtained on Breydon Water, a tidal lake, in the vicinity of Great Yarmouth, the codling generally feeding very well here.

· In Lowestoft Harbour a lot of sand-dabs, smelts, eels, and whiting are taken, the tackle used being of the lightest description.

· I have on several occasions taken a nice lot of smelts in this harbour on the finest roach tackle.

· Much more might be written on the sea-fishing of the Norfolk coast, but I trust that I have said sufficient to enable strangers to secure good sport, and I wish them all "tight lines" and heavy baskets.





NORFOLK AND SUFFOLK  
**FISHERIES ACT, 1887.**

*(40 and 41 Vict., c. XCVIII.)*

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**APPROVED BYE-LAWS.**

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**CLOSE TIME—ALL WATERS.**

1.—No person shall fish for, catch, take, or kill, or attempt to catch, take, or kill, otherwise than by rod and line, within the limits of the above Act, any Trout, between the 10th September and the 25th day of January, both days inclusive, or any other kind of Fish, between the 1st day of March and the 30th day of June, both days inclusive, except Smelts, Bait, and Eels as hereinafter provided.

**NETS GENERALLY.**

2.—No person shall, for the purpose of taking Fish within the limits of the above Act, do any of the following things :—

(1.) Use or attempt to use any Net between one hour

after sunset and one hour before sunrise, except in the River Ouse below Denver Sluice, and in the River Nene below Wisbech Bridge.

- (2.) Use or attempt to use, at any time within three years after the 30th day of June, 1884,\* for the purpose of taking Fish, other than Tench, Smelts, Bait, and Eels, any Net having a mesh of less dimensions when wet than three inches from knot to knot, measured on each side of the square, or twelve inches all round.
- (3.) Use or attempt to use any Net having a wall or facing, with a mesh of less dimensions when wet than seven inches from knot to knot, measured on each side of the square, or 28 inches all round.
- (4.) Use or attempt to use, in any navigable river, any Bow Net.
- (5.) Use or attempt to use, in any navigable river, any Drag Net having a poke or pocket.
- (6.) Use or attempt to use a Drag Net of any kind in the undermentioned waters :—
  - (1.) The River Yare or Wensum—
  - (2.) The River Waveney—
  - (3.) The River Bure, below the lower entrance to Wroxham Broad—
  - (4.) The River Ant, below the lower entrance into Barton Broad—
  - (5.) The River Thurne, below the entrance into Somerton Broad—

except with the previous permission in writing of the Board of Conservators, under their Common Seal.

3.—No person shall, within the limits of the above Act, use, or attempt to use, any Net for taking Fish, unless it

\* This has been extended from time to time, lastly from 30th June, 1887, till 30th June, 1890.

is sufficiently weighted to sink vertically in the water, or take, or attempt to take Fish by placing two or more Nets behind or near to each other, or use any other device or artifice so as practically to diminish the size of the mesh of any Net allowed to be used by these Bye-laws, or to evade this provision.

**PROHIBITING USE OF TRIMMERS, &C., IN NAVIGABLE RIVERS.**

4.—No person shall use or attempt to use, any Trimmer, Ligger, Dead Line, or Snare, or any like Instrument, or Engine, for the purpose of taking Fish in any navigable river within the limits of the above Act, except Lines for taking Eels as hereinafter provided.

**TAKING SMELTS.—RIVERS YARE AND WENSUM.**

5.—No person shall, within the limits of the above Act, use or attempt to use, any Net in the River Yare or Wensum, for the purpose of taking Smelts, except a Cast Net or Drop Net, between the 10th day of March and the 12th day of May, both days inclusive, and then only between the New Mills, in the Parish of St. Swithin, in the City of Norwich, or Trowse Bridge, in Trowse or Trowse Newton, and the junction of the Rivers Yare and Wensum at a place known as Trowse Hythe, and between Hardley Cross and the junction of the Rivers Yare and Waveney.

6.—No person shall use, or attempt to use, a Cast Net or Drop Net exceeding 16 feet in diameter in the River Yare or Wensum, within the limits of the above Act.

**TAKING SMELTS.—RIVER WAVENEY.**

7.—No person shall, within the limits of the above Act, use, or attempt to use, in the River Waveney, above the Burgh Cement Works, any Net for the purpose of taking

Smelts except between the 10th day of March, and the 12th day of May, both days inclusive, and then only at the places and by the means hereinafter mentioned, viz., between Rose Hall Fleet, and the Boat-house Hill near Beccles, and in the pen of Shipmeadow Lock, by a Cast Net or Drop Net not exceeding 16 feet in diameter, and if any such Net be used between one hour after sunset and one hour before sunrise, the same shall be used with a light or flare, and not otherwise.

**TAKING SMELTS.—RIVERS OUSE, NAR, AND NENE.**

8.—No person shall, within the limits of the above Act, take or kill, or attempt to take or kill, Smelts in the Rivers Ouse, Nar, or Nene, between the 1st day of April and the 31st day of August, both days inclusive.

9.—No person shall, within the limits of the above Act, use, or attempt to use, in the Rivers Ouse, Nar, or Nene, for the purpose of taking Smelts, any Net having a mesh of less dimensions, when wet, than five-eighths of an inch from knot to knot, measured on each side of the square.

**TAKING SMELTS.—BREYDON WATER.**

10.—No person shall, within the limits of the above Act, use, or attempt to use, in the water known as Breydon Water, for the purpose of taking Smelts, any Net in the months of May, June, July, and August, or any Net between the 1st day of September and the 30th day of April, both days inclusive, having a mesh of less dimensions, when wet, than five-eighths of an inch from knot to knot, measured on each side of the square.

**TAKING BAIT.—NAVIGABLE RIVERS.**

11.—No person shall, for the purpose of taking Bait in

any navigable river within the limits of the above Act (except in the River Ouse below Denver Sluice, and in the River Nene below Wisbech Bridge), use any Net other than a Cast Net, or any Cast Net having a mesh of less dimensions, when wet, than five-eighths of an inch from knot to knot, measured on each side of the square.

**TAKING BAIT.—ALL WATERS.**

12.—No person shall within the limits of the above Act, use, or attempt to use, any Cast Net exceeding eight yards in circumference, or having a sack or purse exceeding fourteen inches in depth, when extended for the purpose of taking Fish for Bait; and the word "Bait" shall mean Roach, Rudd or Roud, Bream, Dace, Ruff or Pope, Gudgeons, and Minnows measuring less than eight inches from the nose to the fork of the tail.

13.—No person shall, within the limits of the above Act, Net for Bait at any time on a Sunday; and no person shall, within such limits, Net for Bait at any time on a week-day except between one hour before sunrise and one hour after sunset, nor unless such Bait is for use in angling, or trolling, or taking Eels within the limits of the above Act.

**TAKING EELS.—RIVER YARE AND WENSUM,  
ABOVE HARDLEY CROSS.**

14.—No person shall, for the purpose of taking Eels in the Rivers Yare and Wensum, above Hardley Cross, do any of the following things:—

- (1.) Use or attempt to use in the months of April, May, and June, a line with a hook or hooks except in connection with a rod used for the purpose of angling.

- (2.) Use or attempt to use any Net in the months of April, May, and June.
- (3.) Use or attempt to use at any other time of the year, a Line, whether fixed or not, with more than one hook, except in connection with a rod used for the purpose of Angling.
- (4.) Use or attempt to use any Net other than a Skim or Skein Net.

#### TAKING EELS.—ALL OTHER WATERS.

15.—In all other waters within the limits of the above Act, lines with one hook only, whether fixed or not, and fixed Nets, but no others, may be used at any time for taking Eels only.

16.—No person shall use or attempt to use, in any water within the limits of the above Act, a Dag, or Spear, for the purpose of taking Fish other than Eels.

#### ALL WATERS.

17.—Any person, within the limits of the above Act, taking any Fish except Smelts, Eels, or Bait, in any Net allowed by these Bye-laws to be used for taking Smelts, Eels, or Bait respectively, shall immediately return such first-mentioned Fish to the water without avoidable injury.

18.—The foregoing Bye-laws shall not apply to any other than fresh-water Fish, or to the water known as Breydon Water, except as to Smelts, as hereinbefore provided.

*I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true Copy of the Bye-laws made by the Board of Conservators under the above Act, and that such Bye-laws have been approved*

*by one of Her Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, and have been duly advertised as approved Bye-laws in newspapers circulated in the Counties of Norfolk and Suffolk, and have been otherwise published as the Board directed.*

*Sealed by Order of the Board.*

EDWARD FIELD,

*Honorary Secretary.*



## TIDE TABLE FOR YAR

Showing the Time of High Water for

This Table is copyright and Registered at Stationers' Hall. Legal

DAY.	JAN.		FEB.		MARCH.		APRIL.		MAY.		JUNE.	
	mor.	even.	mor.	even.	mor.	even.	mor.	even.	mor.	even.	mor.	even.
1	h. m.	h. m.	h. m.	h. m.	h. m.	h. m.	h. m.	h. m.	h. m.	h. m.	h. m.	h. m.
1	9 9	9 33	10 29	10 50	10 4	10 26	10 59	11 20	11 25	11 49	0 23	0 48
2	9 56	10 19	11 9	11 32	10 47	11 6	11 42	—	—	0 13	1 10	1 37
3	10 41	11 4	11 58	—	11 26	11 45	0 4	0 27	0 37	1 4	2 5	2 35
4	11 26	11 49	0 15	0 36	—	0 6	0 51	1 17	1 33	2 7	3 6	3 36
5	—	0 12	0 56	1 16	0 28	0 49	1 49	2 27	2 46	3 22	4 5	4 33
6	0 26	0 59	1 41	2 7	1 10	1 35	3 9	3 51	3 58	4 33	5 0	5 26
7	1 23	1 48	2 39	3 14	2 7	2 44	4 34	5 14	5 5	5 34	5 53	6 19
8	2 19	2 50	3 50	4 30	3 25	4 11	5 59	6 26	6 2	6 28	6 44	7 6
9	3 22	3 52	5 12	5 55	4 55	5 41	6 55	7 18	6 52	7 11	7 28	7 48
10	4 25	4 57	6 37	7 15	6 25	7 2	7 37	7 55	7 29	7 47	8 8	8 28
11	5 30	6 8	7 45	8 11	7 31	7 54	8 12	8 27	8 4	8 21	8 49	9 10
12	6 44	7 18	8 38	8 53	8 12	8 31	8 48	8 58	8 37	8 55	9 31	9 50
13	7 46	8 14	9 12	9 29	8 49	9 5	9 14	9 32	9 14	9 32	10 11	10 33
14	8 38	9 2	9 46	10 8	9 20	9 34	9 44	9 59	9 49	10 6	10 54	11 14
15	9 24	9 45	10 18	10 34	9 48	10 3	10 15	10 30	10 24	10 42	11 35	11 59
16	10 0	10 25	10 48	11 2	10 16	10 30	10 44	10 59	11 1	11 21	—	0 28
17	10 41	10 58	11 16	11 31	10 45	10 58	11 16	11 33	11 43	—	0 46	1 12
18	11 14	11 30	11 44	11 58	11 12	11 25	11 52	—	0 5	0 27	1 41	2 13
19	11 46	—	—	0 13	11 40	11 56	0 12	0 33	0 53	1 22	2 46	3 18
20	0 3	0 19	0 27	0 42	—	0 12	0 58	1 29	1 57	2 33	3 49	4 18
21	0 34	0 49	1 0	1 19	0 30	0 48	2 5	2 46	3 12	3 48	4 47	5 11
22	1 5	1 25	1 42	2 10	1 10	1 40	3 28	4 10	4 20	4 48	5 44	6 18
23	1 47	2 11	2 43	3 22	2 15	2 56	4 48	5 21	5 16	5 45	6 50	7 19
24	2 38	3 7	4 3	4 47	3 39	4 27	5 55	6 27	6 15	6 43	7 46	8 13
25	3 39	4 12	5 31	6 14	5 11	5 52	6 52	7 15	7 9	7 33	8 40	9 7
26	4 45	5 26	6 55	7 28	6 29	7 1	7 37	7 58	7 58	8 22	9 32	9 55
27	5 5	6 42	7 54	8 19	7 27	7 48	8 21	8 45	8 49	9 15	10 19	10 41
28	7 16	7 45	8 40	9 1	8 9	8 30	9 8	9 31	9 39	10 4	11 2	11 22
29	8 10	8 33	9 22	9 44	8 52	9 13	9 54	10 18	10 27	10 49	11 42	—
30	8 57	9 19	—	—	9 35	9 57	10 40	11 2	11 14	11 36	0 3	0 22
31	9 42	10 6	—	—	10 19	10 40	—	—	11 59	—	—	—

It is high water at LYNN 3 hrs. 15 mins. earlier, at LOWESTOFT

## MOUTH BAR FOR 1896.

every Morning and Evening in the year.

proceedings will be taken on any infringement of the copyright.

JULY.		AUG.		SEPT.		OCT.		NOV.		DEC.		DAY.
mor.	even.	mor.	even.	mor.	even.	mor.	even.	mor.	even.	mor.	even.	
h. m.	h. m.	h. m.	h. m.	h. m.	h. m.	h. m.	h. m.	h. m.	h. m.	h. m.	h. m.	
0 42	1 0	1 12	1 32	1 57	2 38	2 40	3 20	4 51	5 25	5 11	5 42	1
1 20	1 42	1 55	2 21	3 7	3 48	4 5	4 49	5 5	6 25	6 12	6 40	2
2 7	2 33	2 49	3 19	4 31	5 16	5 29	6 4	6 50	7 11	7 7	7 31	3
3 0	3 27	3 52	4 32	5 58	6 34	6 36	7 1	7 32	7 55	7 57	8 22	4
3 54	4 22	5 8	5 46	7 5	7 29	7 28	7 45	8 17	8 41	8 49	9 16	5
4 50	5 20	6 23	6 57	7 54	8 15	8 4	8 25	9 5	9 29	9 43	10 8	6
5 51	6 22	7 26	7 51	8 35	8 56	8 45	9 7	9 53	10 18	10 32	10 55	7
6 53	7 19	8 12	8 36	9 17	9 37	9 29	9 52	10 41	11 3	11 19	11 42	8
7 44	8 8	9 0	9 21	9 57	10 18	10 13	10 33	11 28	11 52	—	0 6	9
8 30	8 52	9 42	10 3	10 39	10 59	10 54	11 18	—	0 16	0 28	0 51	10
9 15	9 38	10 25	10 45	11 19	11 40	11 4	—	0 43	1 14	1 16	1 42	11
10 0	10 22	11 4	11 25	—	0 2	0 5	0 29	1 48	2 24	2 11	2 40	12
10 43	11 2	11 46	—	0 24	0 46	0 56	1 29	3 0	3 35	3 10	3 37	3
11 26	11 47	0 6	0 26	1 12	1 43	2 7	2 49	4 9	4 41	4 7	4 35	14
—	0 10	0 49	1 11	2 21	3 8	3 31	4 13	5 11	5 42	5 4	5 33	15
0 33	0 54	1 36	2 6	3 46	4 32	4 53	5 30	6 8	6 34	6 1	6 28	16
1 17	1 42	2 40	3 18	5 15	5 57	6 8	6 32	6 56	7 16	6 54	7 18	17
2 8	2 39	3 56	4 37	6 32	7 3	6 57	7 18	7 34	7 51	7 39	7 59	18
3 12	3 44	5 20	6 3	7 27	7 48	7 37	7 53	8 1	8 25	8 19	8 39	19
4 18	4 52	6 42	7 15	8 10	8 27	8 8	8 24	8 43	9 1	8 59	9 19	20
5 27	6 5	7 43	8 7	8 42	8 59	8 40	8 56	9 19	9 36	9 38	9 59	21
6 43	7 17	8 28	8 49	9 14	9 28	9 12	9 26	9 53	10 11	10 19	10 38	22
7 45	8 12	9 7	9 27	9 43	9 58	9 43	9 58	10 28	10 46	10 57	11 16	23
8 37	9 2	9 43	10 0	10 13	10 27	10 13	10 29	11 4	11 23	11 36	11 58	24
9 25	9 44	10 16	10 31	10 4	10 55	10 44	11 0	11 45	—	—	0 19	25
10 4	1 26	10 45	1 58	11 9	11 24	11 16	11 35	0 7	0 29	0 41	1 42	26
10 43	11 0	11 15	11 30	11 39	11 56	11 54	—	0 54	1 24	1 31	2 0	27
11 17	11 34	11 44	11 58	—	0 13	0 13	0 37	1 57	2 33	2 30	3 3	28
11 49	—	—	0 14	0 33	0 54	1 5	1 39	3 7	3 41	3 34	4 5	29
0 6	0 22	0 29	0 47	1 22	1 53	2 17	2 58	4 10	4 43	3 36	5 7	30
0 37	0 53	1 6	1 30	—	—	3 38	4 18	—	—	5 39	6 45	31

42 mins. later, and IPSWICH 3 hrs. 15 mins. later than at Yarmouth.

## COPY OF THE GOVERNMENT SURVEY.


**THE YARE—From Carrow Bridge.**

			MLS.	FUR.	YDS.
To Trowse Eye	...	...	0	4	80
„ Thorpe Second Bridge	...	...	1	4	180
„ Whitlingham Ferry	...	...	2	0	110
„ Corby's Dyke	...	...	2	2	0
„ Postwick Grove	...	...	3	1	40
„ Postwick Hall	...	...	3	6	0
„ Wood's End	...	...	4	1	40
„ Wilde's Cottage	...	...	4	4	0
„ Surlingham Ferry	...	...	5	6	0
„ Coldham Hall	...	...	7	5	44
„ Walpole's Reed Bush	...	...	9	0	0
„ Buckenham Ferry	...	...	10	1	0
„ Hassingham Dyke	...	...	10	6	0
„ Langley Dyke	...	...	11	7	0
„ Cantley Red House	...	...	12	6	0
„ Devil's House	...	...	13	2	0
„ Hardley Mill	...	...	14	0	0
„ Hardley Dyke	...	...	14	2	0
„ Hardley Cross	...	...	15	2	0
„ Norton Staithe	...	...	15	3	0
„ Reedham Ferry	...	...	15	5	0
„ Reedham End of New Cut	...	...	17	0	0
„ Upper Seven-Mile House	...	...	18	4	0
„ Berney Arms	...	...	20	6	0
„ Burgh Flats	...	...	21	0	0
„ Yarmouth Drawbridge	...	...	25	0	0
„ Gorleston Pierhead	...	...	27	2	0

**THE WAVENEY—From Reedham Bridge.**

			MLS. FUR. YDS.		
To Herringfleet Bridge	...	...	3	0	0
„ Somerleyton Bridge	...	...	4	5	0
„ Oulton Dyke	...	...	7	3	110
„ Oulton Broad	...	...	8	7	0
„ Mutford Lock	...	...	9	6	0
„ Lowestoft Bridge	...	...	11	4	0
„ Lowestoft Pierhead	...	...	11	6	0

High Water at Reedham Bridge  $2\frac{1}{2}$  hours later than at Yarmouth Bar. Cantley, 3 hours. Buckenham,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  hours. Coldham Hall, 4 hours.

**THE BURE—From Yarmouth Bridge.**

			MLS.	
To Acle Bridge	...	...	...	12
„ Thurne Mouth	...	...	...	$15\frac{1}{4}$
„ St. Benet's Abbey	...	...	...	17
„ Mouth of Ant	...	...	...	$17\frac{1}{2}$
„ Horning Ferry...	...	...	...	21
„ Wroxham Broad (lower entrance)	...	...	...	$25\frac{1}{2}$
„ Wroxham Bridge	...	...	...	27



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